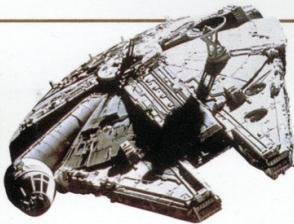


HOLLYWOOD
SPOTLIGHT

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO

STAR WARS



45

Years Later

EPISODE IV:
A NEW HOPE

Secrets
From All
the Movies

Stars Share
Favorite
Memories

What's Next for
The Mandalorian &
Obi-Wan Kenobi

CENTENNIAL ENTERTAINMENT

35>



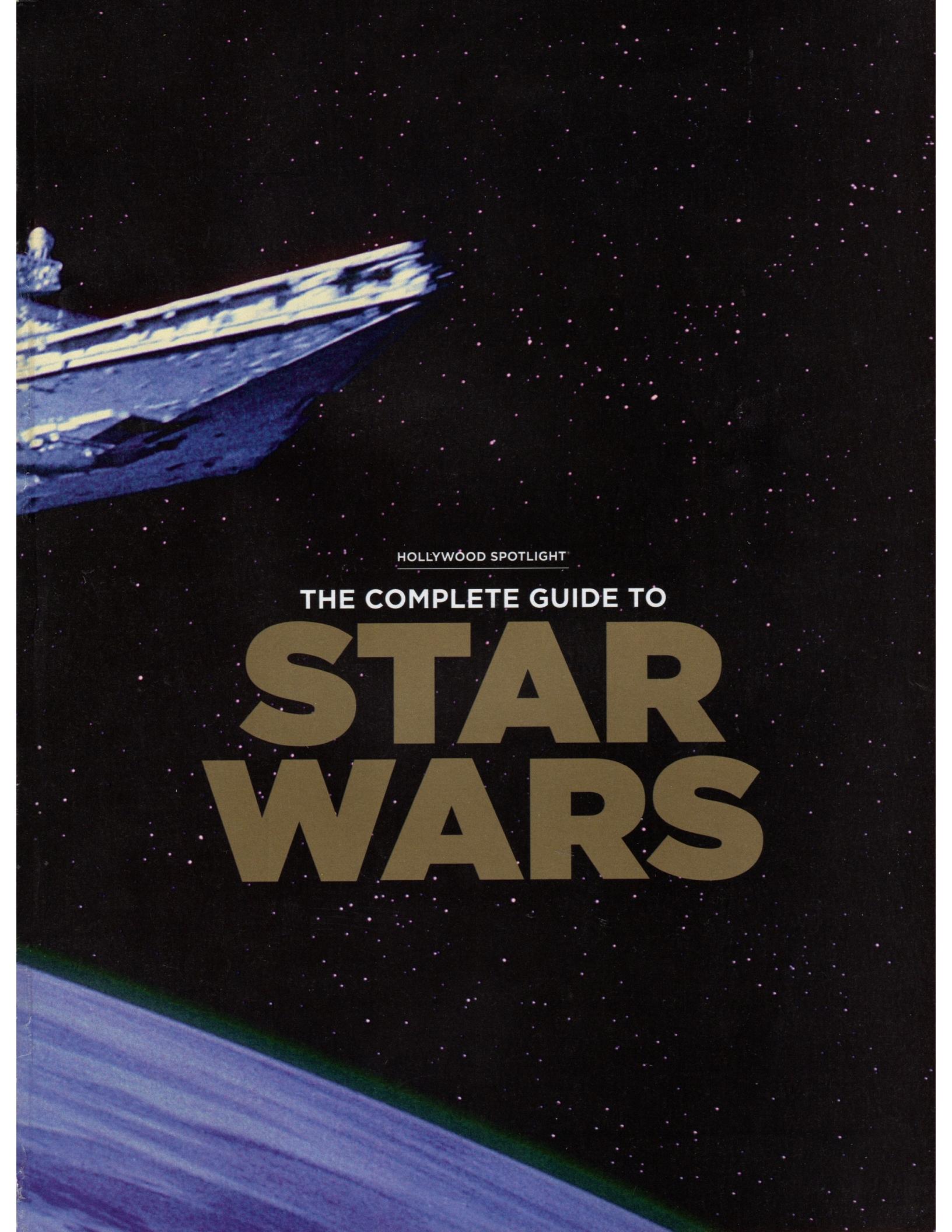
0 72246 71391 4 \$13.99

Display Until 7/4/22
This magazine is editorially independent and has
not been licensed or approved by the owners of
the characters or entertainment properties.



Making History

Director George Lucas' seminal 1977 space saga was a life-changing film for millions of fans.



HOLLYWOOD SPOTLIGHT

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO

STAR WARS

STAR WARS

ICON

ICON

ICON

10 How George Lucas Invented *Star Wars*

The *American Graffiti* director drew inspiration from mythology, beloved movies and an old comic strip for his sci-fi universe.

14 Casting the Movie

Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher will always be the faces of the original trilogy, but many other well-known actors tried out for their parts.

26 Trouble on the Set

It wasn't exactly smooth sailing for George Lucas as he filmed *Star Wars: A New Hope*.

32 The Films That Followed

The original blockbuster movie was succeeded by two sequels, two trilogies and two spinoffs, with varying degrees of box-office success.

40 Big Screen Plans

When is the next *Star Wars* movie coming out?

44 Hollywood Royalty, Screen Princess, Star Wars Legend

Playing Princess Leia came at a cost, but Carrie Fisher had no regrets about taking on the role.

48 More Mando!

Everything we know about Season 3 of the Disney+ hit *The Mandalorian*.

54 Unlikely Hero

The Book of Boba Fett saw *Star Wars'* most infamous bounty hunter in a new role, but is this the end of the redemption story for the knight in not-so-shiny armor?

58 Getting Animated

These cartoon series help to fill in some blanks in the franchise's time line.

60 What's Next?

The galaxy far, far away is set to expand even more with these upcoming Disney+ series.

66 Read All About It

Here are 10 things to know about the *Star Wars* universe as it exists in books and comics.

70 Reinventing Special Effects

In order to get the outer space look he wanted for the first film, George Lucas created a new FX company—the groundbreaking Industrial Light & Magic.

72 Creating the Aliens

Whether it was a miniature or a massive beast that took six people to operate, the franchise's critters were pure movie magic.

74 Flying High

The galaxy is full of spaceships of all shapes, sizes and conditions, from the *Millennium Falcon*, which Luke Skywalker called "a piece

of junk," to Darth Vader's experimental TIE Fighter.

76 Dressed to Kill

Drawing inspiration from centuries of history, costume designers created iconic looks for their characters.

78 Location, Location, Location

The movies have been filmed across six continents, with remnants of the sets built for memorable scenes still standing today.

82 A to Z

Do you know your Oola from your Yoda? Get better acquainted with the franchise's lesser-known characters and creatures.

90 Live the Fantasy

Feel the power of the Force at Disney's Galaxy's Edge and fully immerse yourself with a "voyage" on the luxurious new Galactic Starcruiser.

94 The Ultimate Quiz

Think you know everything about that faraway galaxy? Find out if the Force is strong with you.

96 May the Quotes Be With You

The early films' dialogue has been mocked—and in some cases improved—by Harrison Ford, but you've probably quoted at least one of these iconic lines.

FAN

Mr. Nice Guy

"When I met Mark Hamill, I really learned how to be cool," Harrison Ford told Jake's Takes of his co-star (left). "He's just a really straightforward, nice guy. He's really a sweet guy."



Final Scene

Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher and Harrison Ford filmed this scene for *A New Hope* over two days in May 1976. An early draft of the script had Fisher's character, Leia, crowned queen.

CELEBRATING
45 YEARS OF



MAY 25, 2022, MARKS THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELEASE OF THE FIRST STAR WARS FILM, *A NEW HOPE*.



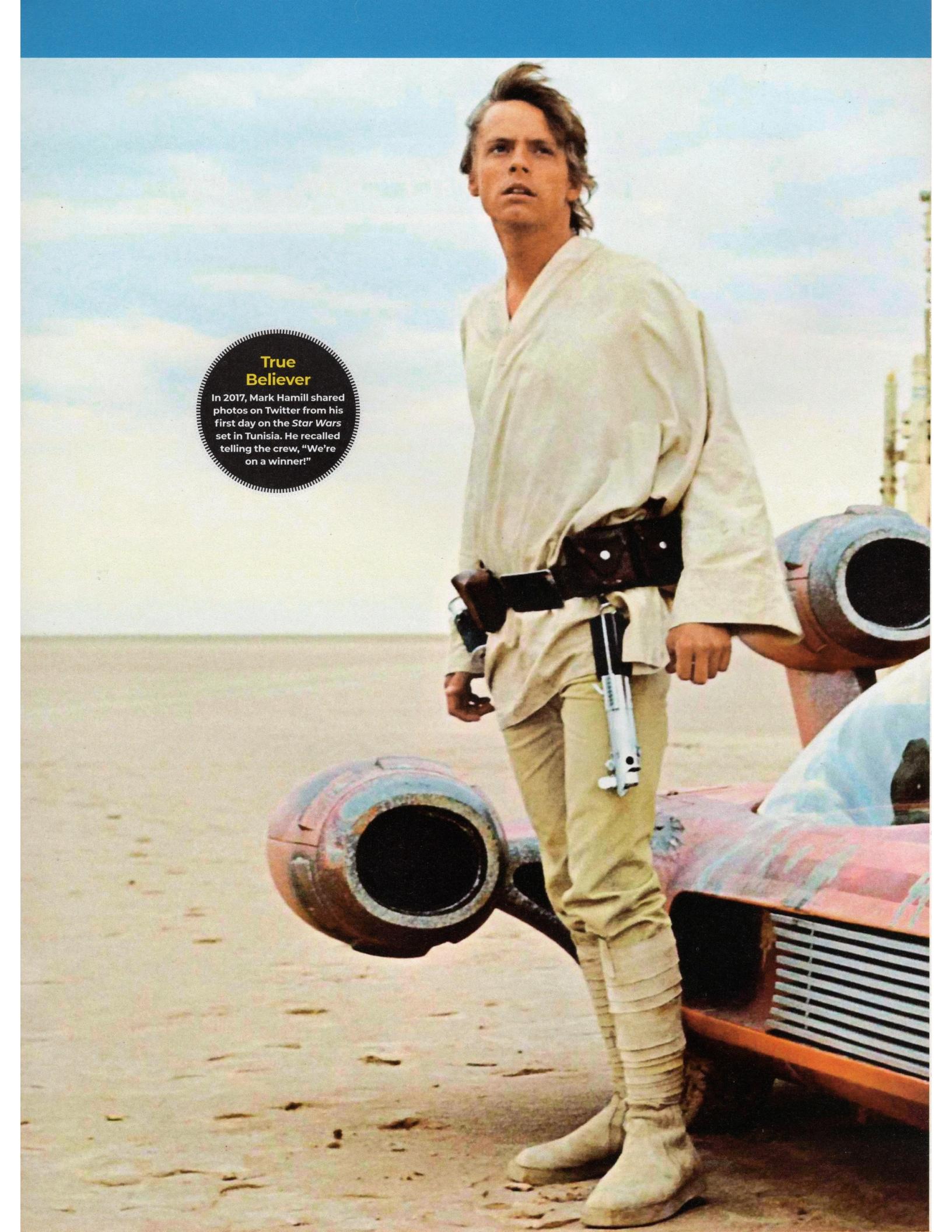
t's hard to believe that something like *Star Wars* has only been around for 45 years. It's almost impossible to remember a time before it. Today, the multimedia franchise permeates every aspect of our culture: It is referenced in all facets of entertainment (from TV and movies to books and comics); politicians have been using it to score cool points for decades; and those who are old enough to have seen the first film, *A New Hope*, in theaters have passed on a love of the galaxy far, far away to their kids and grandchildren. In 2020, the entire franchise was valued at \$70 billion, thanks to blockbuster films, hit TV shows, theme park rides and oh so much merchandise.

But back in 1977, *Star Wars* was far from a sure thing. In fact, no one even wanted to make it. Multiple movie studios rejected the idea before Alan Ladd Jr. at 20th Century Fox finally gave it a chance—and a paltry \$11 million budget. Director and writer George Lucas, who set out merely to make a *Flash Gordon*-style picture, persevered despite the setbacks and created an empire unlike anything in the history of Hollywood and, with his pioneering special effects team, forever changed the way movies are made.

This year, for the 45th anniversary of *Star Wars*, fans will (pandemic allowing) gather in Anaheim, California, to attend Star Wars Celebration, a four-day convention hosted by Lucasfilm. The event, which begins on May 26, will give devotees a sneak peek of what's coming soon with trailers and exclusive clips, as well as insight from actors and directors into how they're advancing the *Star Wars* saga while also giving a nod to the franchise's well-loved past.

And May 25 will see the premiere of *Obi-Wan Kenobi* on Disney+. The six-episode miniseries, set 10 years after *Revenge of the Sith*, stars Ewan McGregor, reprising his prequel trilogy role as the titular Jedi knight, while Hayden Christensen returns as Anakin Skywalker/Darth Vader. "I think it's really going to satisfy *Star Wars* fans," McGregor told *Forbes*. "I think people are going to like it."

STARWARS



True Believer

In 2017, Mark Hamill shared photos on Twitter from his first day on the *Star Wars* set in Tunisia. He recalled telling the crew, "We're on a winner!"

CHAPTER ONE

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

GEORGE LUCAS TURNED HIS IDEA FOR A SMALL
SCIENCE FICTION FANTASY INTO A BLOCKBUSTER
REALITY THAT CHANGED HOLLYWOOD.



HOW GEORGE

Sci-Fi Past

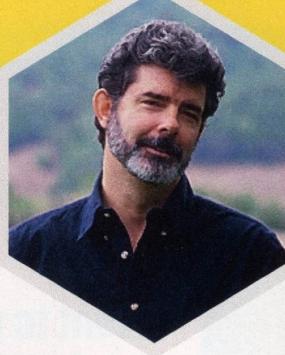
Star Wars wasn't George Lucas' first foray into science fiction. In 1971, he made his feature film directorial debut with *THX 1138*, about a future where emotions are taboo.

"I use color a lot in my films," George Lucas said in a 1999 interview with Bill Moyers. "Death Star, the Empire, has been painted black or white or gray.... It's colorless. The Emperor, I put in a splash of red. I mean, red is an aggressive color."



LUCAS INVENTED

STAR WARS



THE AMERICAN GRAFFITI DIRECTOR DREW INSPIRATION FROM MYTHOLOGY, BELOVED MOVIES AND AN OLD COMIC STRIP FOR HIS SCI-FI UNIVERSE. BY RYAN BRITT



hen George Lucas dreamed up *Star Wars*, he created a contemporary fairy tale. This isn't an overblown

compliment. It was what the director actually *wanted* to do. The longevity of *Star Wars* is due to its mastermind actively trying to make his saga feel like an instant classic.

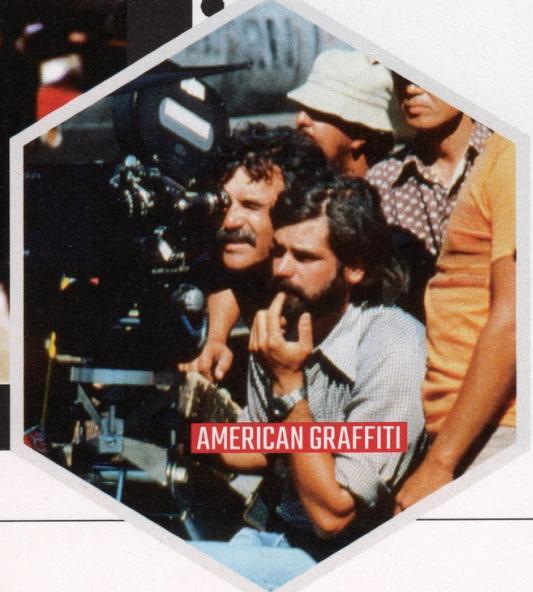
"I had decided there was no modern mythology," Lucas told *Vanity Fair* in 1997. "I wanted to take all the old myths and put them into a format that young people could relate to." Because mythology often arises from "unknown environments," he felt outer space was the way to go. This choice led to a laborious process in which the director



and writer researched not only Eastern and Western religions and myths, but also analyzed character archetypes that represented the monomyth—the theory that various steps in certain stories will always have a deep psychological impact on people.

Lucas had "a list of 35 themes" he wanted to explore in *Star Wars*, many of them derived from author Joseph Campbell's theory of the monomyth, called "The Hero's Journey." Perhaps the most famous step in the narrative is known as "The Call to Adventure"—the

AMERICAN GRAFFITI



“

I want to give young people some sort of faraway exotic environment for their imaginations to run around in.”

GEORGE LUCAS

moment when a protagonist is faced with the prospect of a significant adventure. But in “The Hero’s Journey,” they decline the initial call—a trope in nearly every *Star Wars* film. Luke Skywalker resists going with Obi-Wan Kenobi at first. Han Solo opposes joining the Rebellion, and so on. Lucas

didn’t just research mythology—he looked at what has worked for thousands of years in thousands of stories, and replicated it.

With all of this swirling in his mind, Lucas wrote no less than four drafts and story treatments of a film he called *The Star Wars* (and other times, the long-winded *Adventures of Starkiller: Episode 1: The Star Wars*).

From 1973 to 1976, these screenplays and outlines underwent numerous changes, including one version in which Princess Leia Organa was a minor character and Solo was a green-skinned alien with gills. In some drafts, the Jedi were called Dai Warriors, and Skywalker was an old grizzled war general, best friends with someone named Starkiller. Sometimes the Force was called “the Force of Others,” and Jedi needed an object called a Kiber Crystal to control it. Eventually, after several attempts and some help from

his screenwriter friends Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck, Lucas hammered his story into a coherent piece, an adventure about people, not just goofy made-up robot names and zany planets. “You have to focus on the human story first,” he told journalist Laurent Bouzereau in 1997.

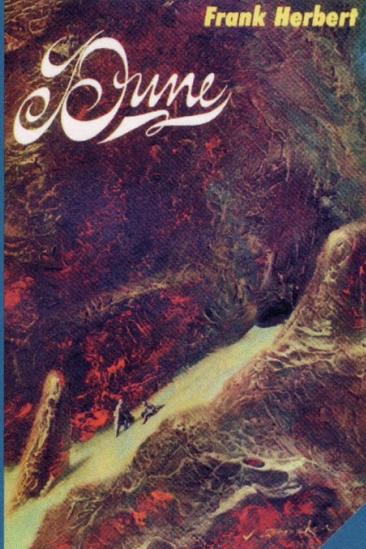
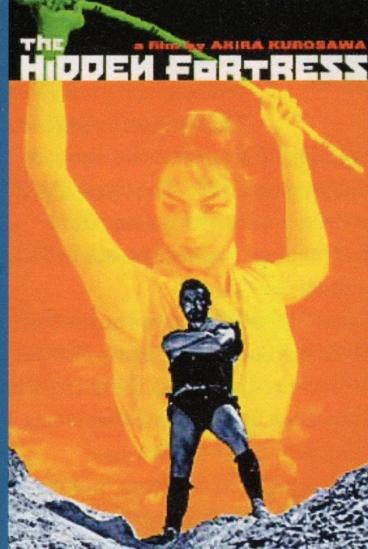
But which characters would bring us into the galaxy far, far away? One of Lucas’ biggest writing breakthroughs involved shifting the point of view of the story onto the droids. In his earliest drafts, they didn’t exist, and two bumbling bureaucrats were in their place. These characters would have only provided comic relief and little else, but the idea of using what he described as “the lowest person in the pecking order” to open the story nagged at Lucas. Once he changed the human sidekicks to robots, he realized they could represent an outsider’s perspective. And so, R2-D2 and C-3PO

The Director's Inspirations

Before he began writing *Star Wars*, Lucas told *Science Fiction Review* that his first thought was to do a remake of *Flash Gordon* “with all the trimmings.” While he was unable to secure the rights,

the influences remained in *Star Wars*, including the famous opening-text crawl. Lucas also based much of the plot of his film on the 1958 Akira Kurosawa film *The Hidden Fortress*, while

borrowing imagery and concepts from Frank Herbert’s 1965 sci-fi novel, *Dune*. Lucas also loved Westerns and WWII films, genres that are heavily referenced throughout *Star Wars*.



were born, and the *Star Wars* story jumped to hyperspace.

As director J.J. Abrams pointed out in his 2007 TED Talk, “The Mystery Box,” what makes the structure of the first *Star Wars* so wonderful is that each set of characters leads the audience to a new question. Lucas may have brilliantly mined mythological structures, but without C-3PO and R2-D2, the magic of the story wouldn’t have clicked. Legend has it that the name R2-D2 came to Lucas in 1973 while mixing the sound for his previous film *American Graffiti* when editor Walter Murch asked the director for R2-D2—meaning “Reel 2, Dialogue 2.” However, Lucas refuted this myth in the ’90s, insisting that all the names were created “phonetically.” He would say all the names out loud while writing and if he had a “hard time” saying a moniker, he’d change it.

When it comes to the saga of the making of *Star Wars*, there are several different versions of events. For example, before starting work in earnest on the film, there’s some evidence to suggest that Lucas wanted to direct Francis Ford Coppola’s *Apocalypse Now*. He even wrote a few versions of the script for the Vietnam War drama before Coppola took over.

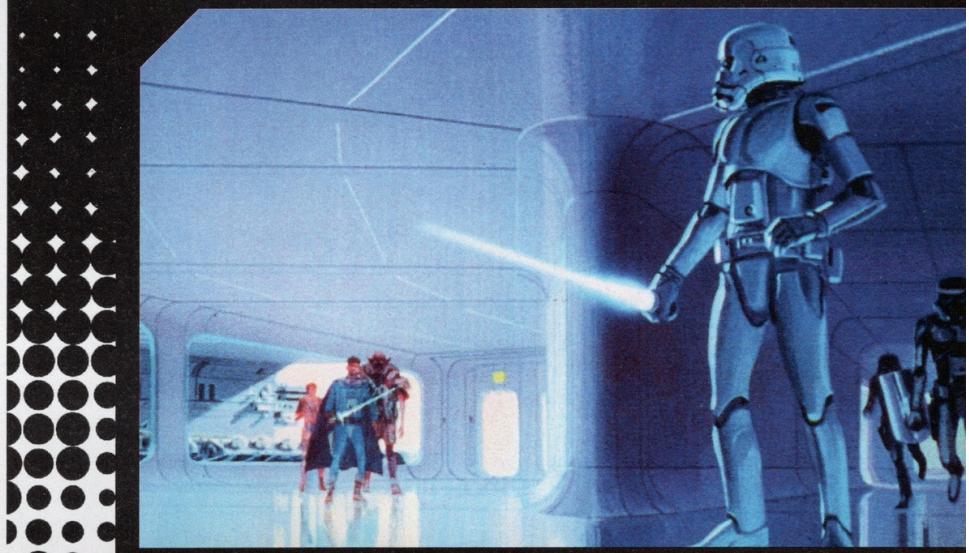
Was Lucas denied *Apocalypse Now*, and thus, gave the world *Star Wars*? Or was he always destined to connect with the power of the Force? Either way, it’s hard to imagine a world in which Lucas didn’t direct *Star Wars*. It would certainly be a much darker cinematic world. Because in the history of upbeat cinema, George Lucas was our only hope.

Iconic Art

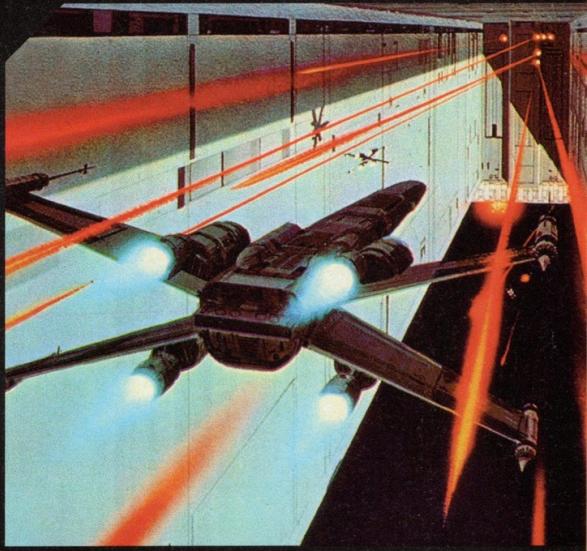


Ralph McQuarrie's concept paintings shaped the movie.

In order to convince studio executives and the general public of the scope and feel of *Star Wars*, George Lucas knew he needed more than just a solid script. He wanted to be able to show people what this faraway galaxy actually looked like. To accomplish this, Lucas hired up-and-coming illustrator Ralph McQuarrie (above). “George wanted me to support his script with visuals,” McQuarrie said, according to the 2021 book *Secrets of the Force*. This led to the artist’s lush paintings, which created the look for the helmets of both Darth Vader and the stormtroopers. Without McQuarrie, there’s no way Darth Vader would have looked the way he did.



Ralph McQuarrie created the look that production designers would follow for (clockwise from above) stormtroopers, X-wing fighters and Darth Vader. “I’d sit with a pencil and dream about whatever I could imagine, sort of grotesque imagery,” the artist told starwars.com.



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

CASTING



Perfect Fit

Mark Hamill was "very boyish and enthusiastic," Carrie Fisher was "strong" and Harrison Ford was "kind of curmudgeonly and swaggery and Harrison-y," George Lucas said.

THE MOVIE



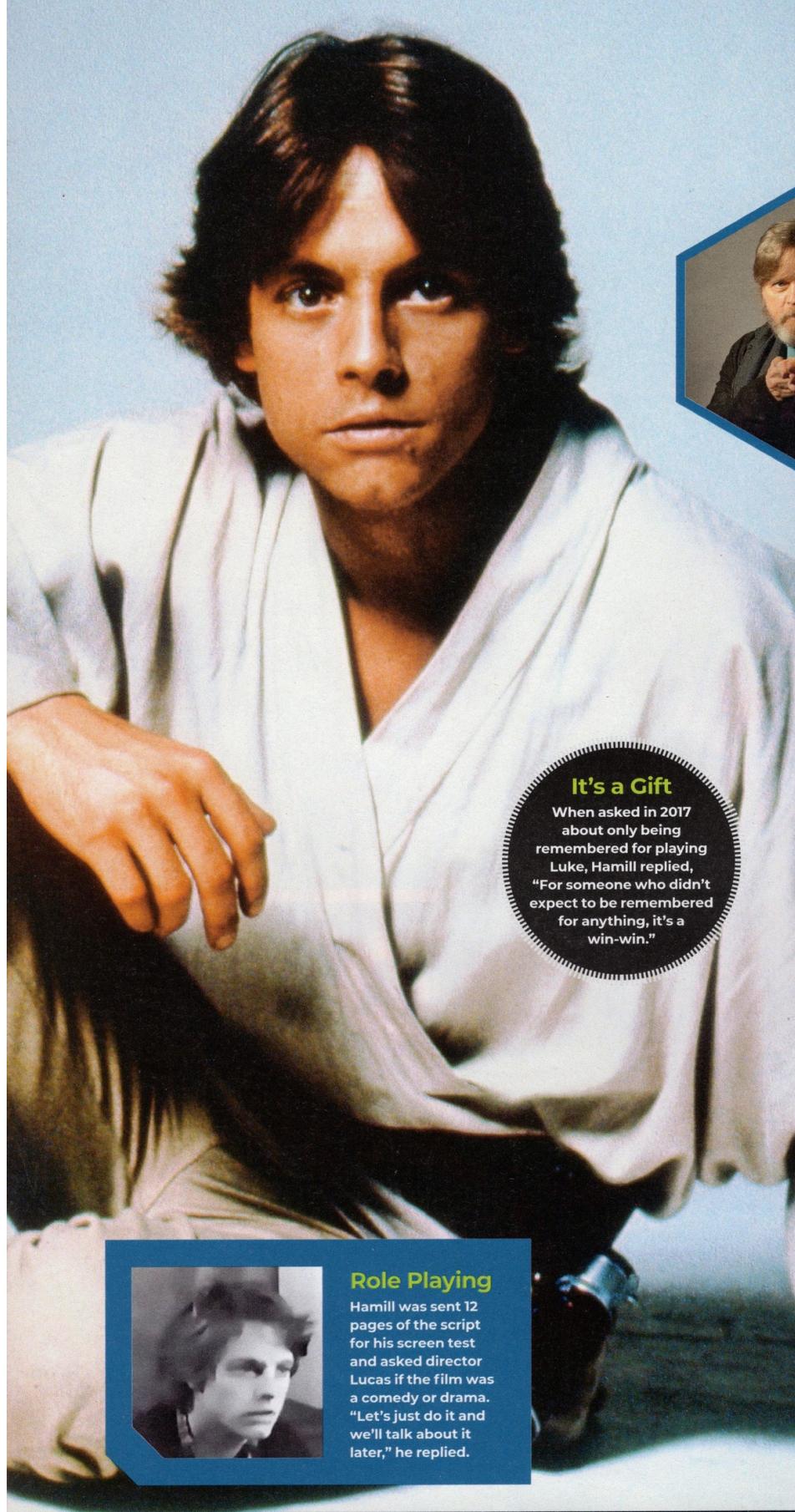
MARK HAMILL,
CARRIE FISHER
AND HARRISON FORD
WILL ALWAYS BE
THE FACES OF THE
ORIGINAL STAR
WARS TRILOGY, BUT
MANY OTHER ACTORS
AUDITIONED FOR
THEIR PARTS.

BY DAN CLARENDON



After spending so long crafting his storyline for *Star Wars*, George Lucas had a very clear idea of his main characters: Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and Princess Leia Organa. He started his search for actors in August 1975, doing communal auditions with pal Brian De Palma—who was casting his 1976 horror movie, *Carrie*—as they both needed an actress of the same age. “I have a tendency to hire actors who already are the characters,” Lucas explained in *The Star Wars Archives*. “It’s their personality that I’m casting. I know they can act. They have credits.”

Here’s the story of how Lucas cast his three heroes and the film’s supporting characters, whether they be human, droid or Wookiee.



Role Playing

Hamill was sent 12 pages of the script for his screen test and asked director Lucas if the film was a comedy or drama. "Let's just do it and we'll talk about it later," he replied.

It's a Gift

When asked in 2017 about only being remembered for playing Luke, Hamill replied, "For someone who didn't expect to be remembered for anything, it's a win-win."

Mark Hamill

Luke Skywalker

Mark Hamill wasn't a household name when *Star Wars* came along, but he had already racked up plenty of screen credits, especially in

ABC TV shows. He had a recurring role on *General Hospital*, starred in the short-lived sitcom *The Texas Wheelers* and was the original David Bradford in the pilot for *Eight Is Enough*.

During the casting process, Hamill's roommate, future *Nightmare on Elm Street* star Robert Englund, tried out for Han Solo and recommended his pal for the part of Luke Skywalker. Little did he know Hamill's agent had already scored his client an audition.

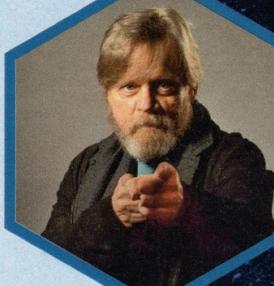
The 24-year-old actor, with what he later described as a "Beatle-esque haircut," sat for a screen test, running lines with an off-camera Harrison Ford, whom Hamill had just met that day. As he recalled in a video for Omaze in 2019, as he rewatched his audition tape, Hamill thought his character—then named Luke Starkiller—was actually the sidekick to Han Solo.

"Harrison was a bona fide leading man, so I thought he was Captain America and I was Bucky," he revealed.

That all changed when Hamill got the script and saw the working title: *The Adventures of Luke Starkiller*. "I realized, 'Oh, my gosh! It's through my eyes!'"

Lucas initially dismissed Hamill and continued auditioning other actors for the role of Luke. *The Greatest American Hero's* William Katt was an early favorite. Charles Martin Smith, who worked with the filmmaker on *American Graffiti*, also was considered, as was Kurt Russell, who tried out for the role of Han Solo as well. Teen idol Robby Benson tested for the part on his 20th birthday.

But by the end of 1975, Lucas came back around to Hamill, who scored another audition with the director—and



“

I'm so much like
Luke Skywalker,
I guess I always
will be.”

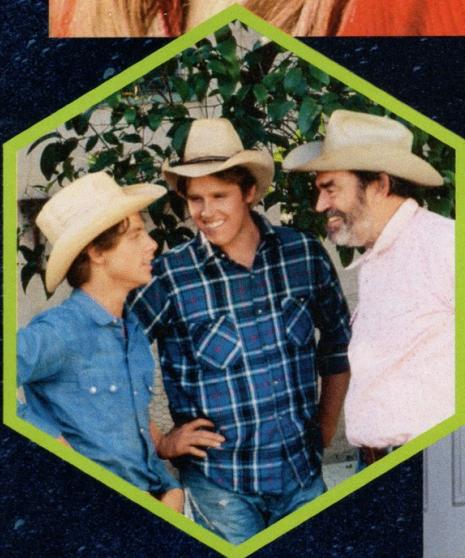
MARK HAMILL

it secured him the career-changing role. Lucas told *The New York Times* in 2017 that he picked the Oakland, California, native because the actor “brought a boyish enthusiasm and exuberance that really defined the character,” which “made Luke accessible and relatable to people in the first *Star Wars*.”

Luke Skywalker was the role of a lifetime for Hamill; as proven by his legions of “UPFs,” the actor’s term for “ultra-passionate fans.”

“The passion of it all is just astonishing,” he told the *Times*. “The way it’s become part of the fabric of their lives—I met my wife at this movie, we named our child Leia—it’s moving.”

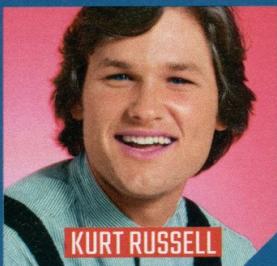
And in a letter to fans in 2020, he echoed Carrie Fisher’s sentiment that *Star Wars* is about family. “That is what we have all become,” he wrote. “One giant community that shares the common experience of these stories and the fundamental values they instill in us.”



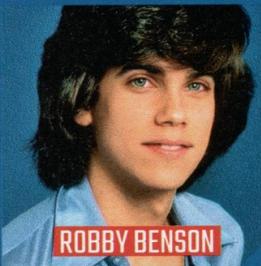
Clockwise from top: Hamill dated *General Hospital* co-star Anne Wyndham; he was in the pilot for *Eight Is Enough*; Gary Busey (center) co-starred in *The Texas Wheelers*.



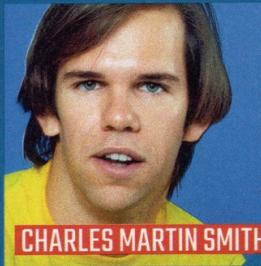
They Auditioned for the Part of Luke



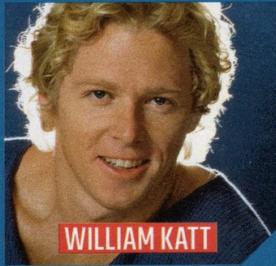
KURT RUSSELL



ROBBY BENSON



CHARLES MARTIN SMITH



WILLIAM KATT

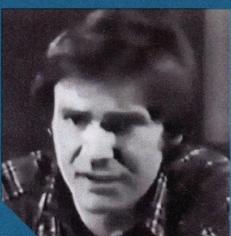
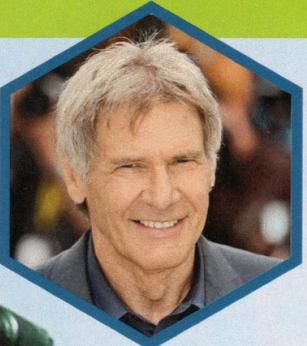
Harrison Ford

Han Solo

Harrison Ford wasn't a lock for the part of the *Millennium Falcon's* captain, even after working with director George Lucas for 1973's *American Graffiti*. (Ford's other early roles included parts in the films *Zabriskie Point* and *The Conversation*, and TV shows *The Virginian* and *Gunsmoke*.) During preproduction for *Star Wars*, Lucas "made it known that he was not interested in working with anybody that he'd worked with in *American Graffiti*, that he was looking for new faces," Ford told *Vanity Fair* in 2020.

In fact, the young actor was moonlighting as a carpenter and constructing a portico entrance to the offices of production company American Zoetrope (founded by Lucas and his friend Francis Ford Coppola) when Lucas showed up for *Star Wars* casting sessions. "Harrison had done a lot of carpentry for me," film producer Fred Roos told Mashable in 2017. "He needed money, he had kids, he wasn't a big movie star yet. The day he was doing it, George happened to be there. It was serendipitous."

At a 2017 *Star Wars* panel, Lucas claimed Roos had orchestrated Ford's carpentry job just to get the actor the part of Han Solo, but Ford disagreed. "I wouldn't just sit around waiting for you," the actor retorted.



Role Playing

"I used him as a foil to do tests," Lucas said of Ford. "When you watch the screen tests of him playing the role... there was just no question about who was the best."

A Legacy

Ford spoke in 2015 about learning to appreciate the films by seeing them through fans' eyes: "Recognizing their value to the audience gives them significance to me."

Either way, Ford helped out with screen tests, reading Han's lines opposite more than 100 actors. (Mark Hamill recalled to the *Telegraph* that he overheard Ford say, "George, let's get this [expletive] thing over with and get the hell outta here.")

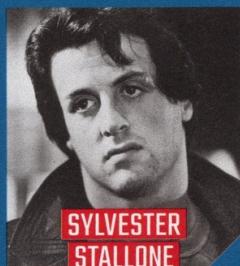
Eventually, his line readings landed him the part, and the 34-year-old beat out big names like Christopher Walken, Sylvester Stallone and Al Pacino. ("*Star Wars* was mine for the taking, but I didn't understand the script," Pacino said at a 2013 panel.)

Though Ford has spoken critically of Han and *Star Wars*—he once called the smuggler “dumb as a stump” and wanted him killed off in the original trilogy—he was happy to take the character out of cinematic carbonite for 2015’s *The Force Awakens*. “The original *Star Wars* that I was a part of really was the beginning of my working life, and I was very, very grateful for the opportunity that I had in that film and for the success of that film,” he told *British GQ* in 2016. “What was and is still shocking and interesting to me was that these films hit notes that make it useful, in people’s minds, to pass it on from generation to generation.”

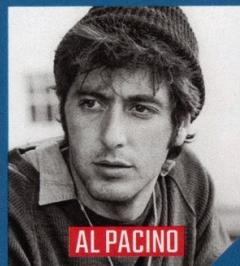


Clockwise from top: Ford played a student in the 1970 film *Getting Straight*; his big break came with *American Graffiti*; Lucas' pal Francis Ford Coppola cast him in *The Conversation* in 1974.

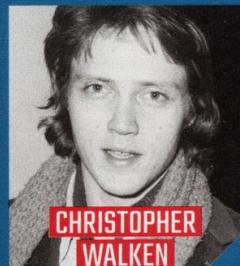
They Auditioned for Han



SYLVESTER
STALLONE



AL PACINO



CHRISTOPHER
WALKEN



Carrie Fisher

Princess Leia Organa

Unlike Harrison Ford and Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher was born into Hollywood royalty, the daughter of screen icon Debbie Reynolds and '50s pop star Eddie Fisher.

Even so, she had only two screen credits before *Star Wars*: her mother's 1969 TV special *Debbie Reynolds and the Sound of Children* and the 1975 film *Shampoo*.

The 19-year-old was a relative unknown when she screen-tested with Ford for the part of Princess Leia. "None of us knew what we were saying...but it was a great script," Fisher told The Daily Beast in 2015, reflecting on the first *Star Wars* film. "It was brilliant. Just f-kin' brilliant. You just saw it, and that's so rare. When you think it's a visual medium, then you tend to overlook that you're saying, 'Scruffy-looking nerf herder,' because what the f-k is that?"

Fisher, who died in 2016 at age 60, laughed at rumors that Meryl Streep also auditioned for the role. "Bulls--t!" said Fisher. "I've never heard that one. But Jodie Foster was up for it...that one I knew the most. Amy Irving and Jodie. And I got it." (Model-actress Patti D'Arbanville and a 14-year-old Terri Nunn also tried out, with the future Berlin lead singer so impressing George Lucas that she was tested three times.)

At a *Star Wars* event in 2017, Lucas discussed his decision to cast Fisher as



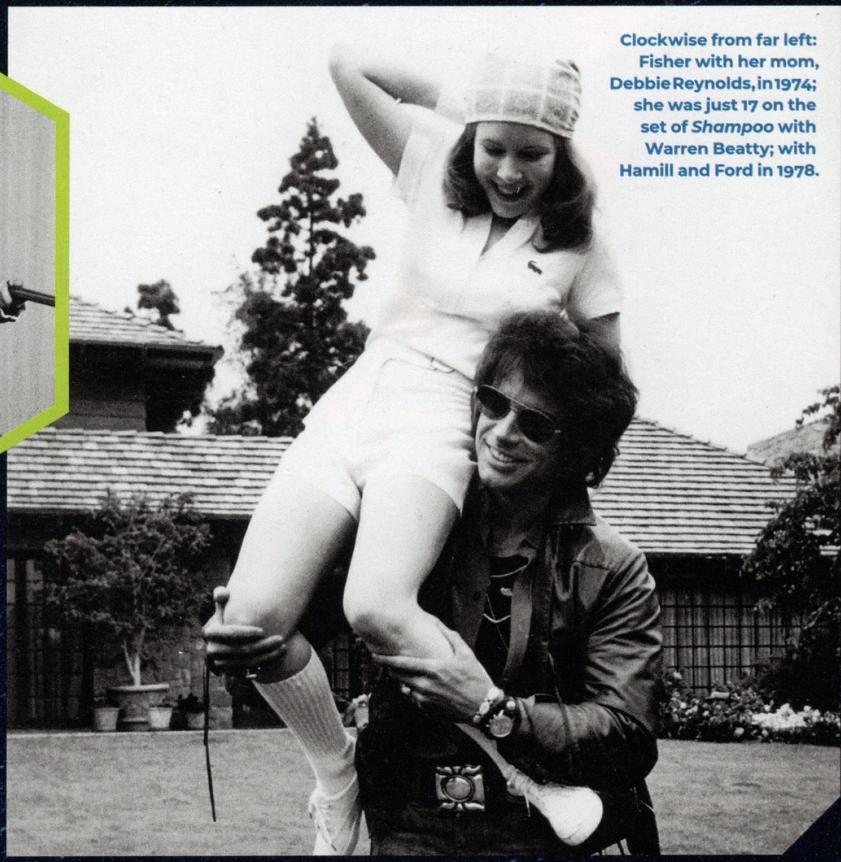
Role Playing

Fisher declared in 2001 that she was "adorable" in her test. Lucas told her she got the part because she had a "very mature streak" with a "vulnerable, young girlish" side.





Clockwise from far left:
Fisher with her mom,
Debbie Reynolds, in 1974;
she was just 17 on the
set of *Shampoo* with
Warren Beatty; with
Hamill and Ford in 1978.



Leia. "She will always be the princess who took command and never backed down," he said. "She was the boss."

It was her war, and when I cast it, I said, 'I want somebody young to play the part.' When Carrie came in, she was that character.... [She] was absolutely perfect."

Fisher told NPR's *Fresh Air* in 2016 that she had "melded with [Leia] over time" and that, aside from a few outfits and hairstyles, she enjoyed playing the part. "I like Princess Leia," she added. "I like how she handles things. I like how she treats people. She tells the truth. She gets what she wants done."

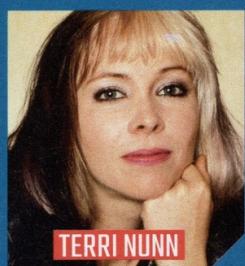
When Lucas revealed in 2012 that a new trilogy was in the works, Fisher jumped at the chance to reprise her iconic role, Hamill revealed to *The New York Times*. "Carrie, not a minute went by—she slapped the table and goes, 'I'm in!'" Hamill recalled. "I said, 'Carrie, poker face!'"

“

You're not really famous until you're a Pez dispenser."

CARRIE FISHER

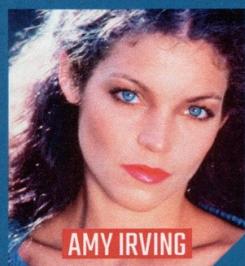
They Auditioned for Leia



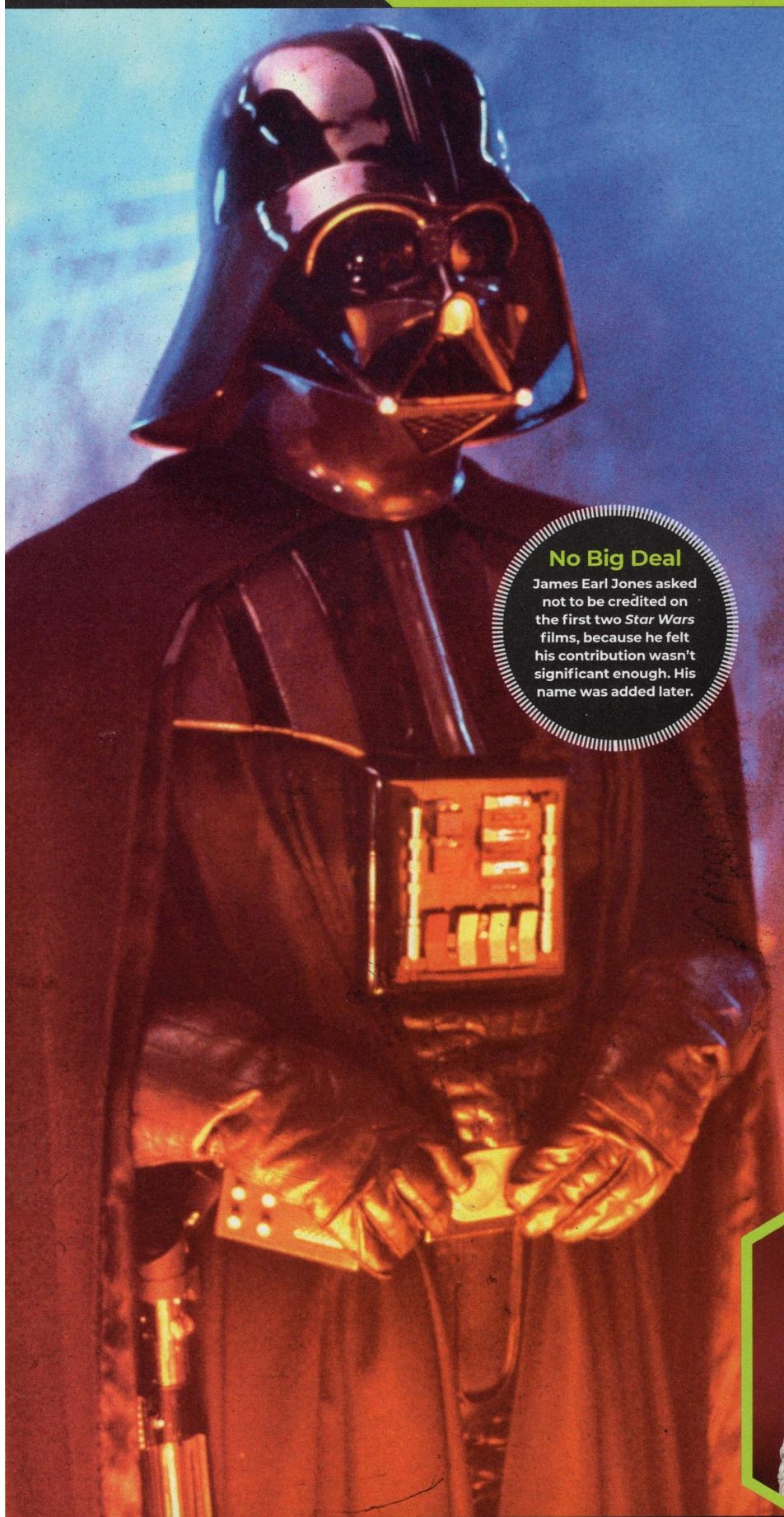
TERRI NUNN



JODIE FOSTER



AMY IRVING

**No Big Deal**

James Earl Jones asked not to be credited on the first two *Star Wars* films, because he felt his contribution wasn't significant enough. His name was added later.

James Earl Jones**Darth Vader**

In the role of *Star Wars'* imposing villain, George Lucas cast David Prowse, a 6-foot-6 bodybuilder-turned-actor. But his West Country English accent didn't seem right for the character. (Carrie Fisher once revealed Prowse's version of Vader was dubbed "Darth Farmer" on set.)

So the director searched for another actor to dub the lines, and landed on James Earl Jones, who had won a Tony for his performance in the 1968 Broadway play *The Great White Hope* and earned an Oscar nomination for its 1970 film adaptation.

"George thought that he wanted a—pardon the expression—'darker' voice," Jones later said in an AFI interview. "So he hires a guy born in Mississippi, raised in Michigan, who stutters.... I lucked out, from all these so-called handicaps."

Lucas "knew the voice had to be very, very special," as he recalled at an event honoring Jones in 2015, and he even considered *Citizen Kane* actor-director Orson Welles for the distinct role. But Jones "won hands down."

Still, the actor only received a "special-effects salary" of \$7,000 for voicing the Sith Lord, as he told Jimmy Fallon in 2010, joking that if he had known how huge *Star Wars* would become, he "would have gotten a better contract."





Peter Mayhew

Chewbacca

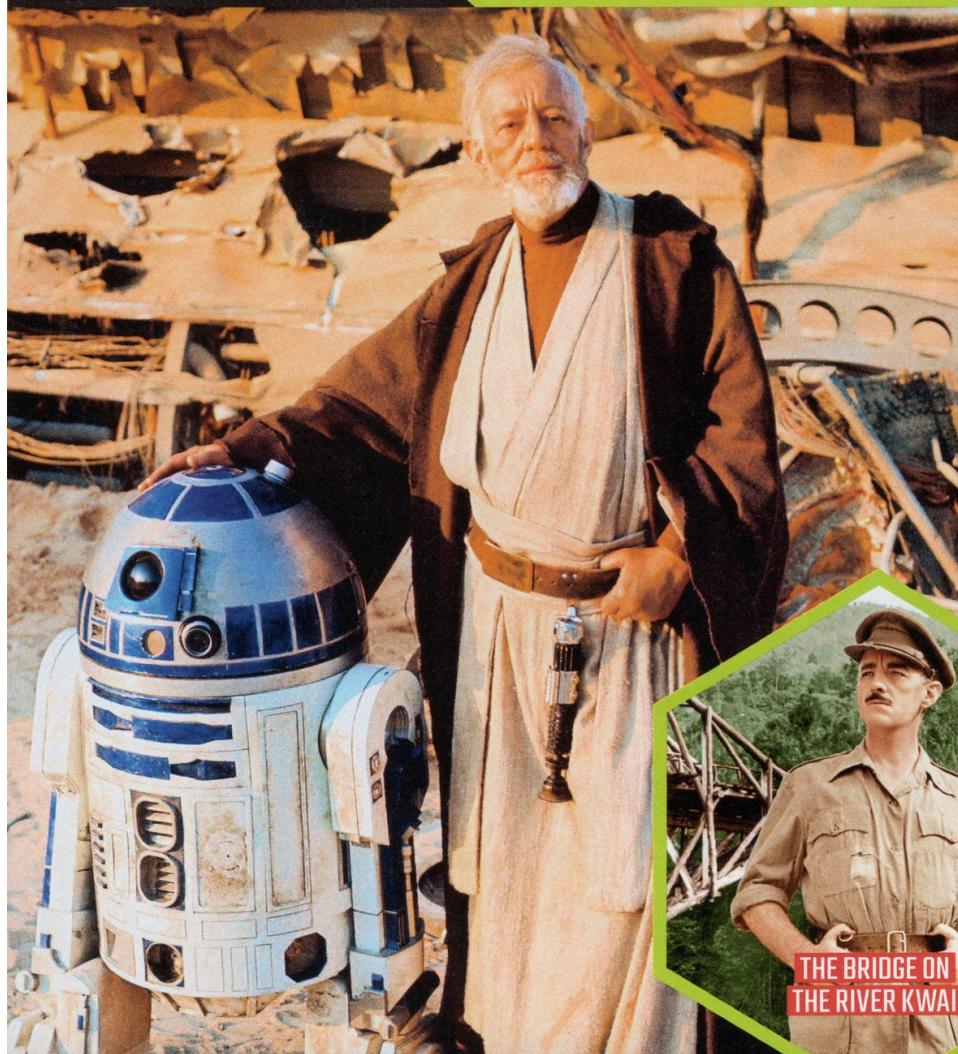
After David Prowse turned down the role of the furry Chewbacca in favor of Darth Vader, Lucas found an even taller actor to play Han Solo's Wookiee sidekick. However, Peter Mayhew, who stood 7 feet-3 inches, wasn't an experienced actor—at the time, he was

working as a hospital orderly. But the director reportedly told him he only needed to "stand up" to play Chewie.

In 2019, when Mayhew died at age 74, Lucas remembered him as "the closest any human being could be to a Wookiee: big heart, gentle nature... and I learned to always let him win."

“ My character is a teddy bear, basically.... That's what Chewie is, he looks after everybody.”

PETER MAYHEW



Alec Guinness

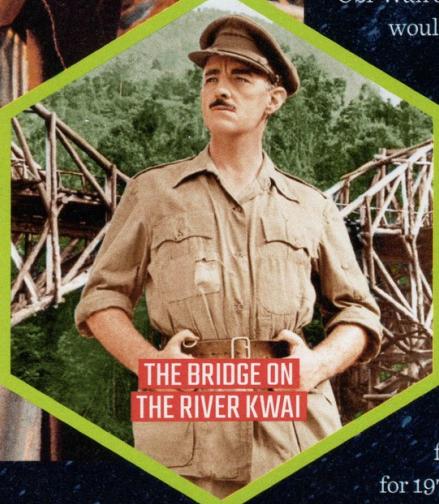
Obi-Wan Kenobi

To play the venerable Jedi Master, George Lucas hired an equally respected actor: Alec Guinness, who had won an Academy Award for *The Bridge on the River Kwai* two decades earlier and was also known for powerful performances in *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Doctor Zhivago*.

But the part wasn't always his. In 2015, the daughter of *Seven Samurai* actor Toshiro Mifune revealed that her father turned down the role of Obi-Wan out of concern that *Star Wars* would "cheapen the image of samurai, on which George Lucas had based a lot of the character and fighting style."

In his place, Guinness earned the part—as well as his fourth Oscar nomination. Despite the acclaim, the English actor didn't always love his time in the *Star Wars* galaxy. In letters to a friend, he called the script for 1977's *A New Hope* "fairy-tale rubbish" and said that the dialogue never made his character "clear or even bearable." In fact, in a 1999 interview Guinness revealed he had pushed for Obi-Wan's death in the original trilogy simply because he "couldn't go on speaking those bloody awful, banal lines."

Even so, Guinness, who died in 2000 at the age of 86, was impressed by the final product. "It's a pretty staggering film as spectacle, and technically brilliant," he wrote in his diary after his first *Star Wars* viewing. "Exciting, very noisy and warmhearted."



THE BRIDGE ON
THE RIVER KWAI



Kenny Baker

R2-D2

When 3-foot-8 actor Kenny Baker was approached to portray the droid, he turned it down. At the time, he had a nightclub comedy act with Jack Purvis—who ended up playing a Jawa, an Ugnaught and an Ewok—and told George Lucas he had no interest in being "stuck in a robot." Obviously, Baker changed his mind. Following his 2016 death, son Kevin told *Entertainment Weekly* his father was "pleased as punch" about his *Star Wars* fame, especially after a fan revealed R2-D2 got her through hard times as a child. "That really resonated with Dad and touched him deeply. He always hoped that would be his legacy."



I loved his optimism & determination. He WAS the droid I was looking for!"

MARK HAMILL ON KENNY BAKER

Anthony Daniels

C-3PO

The Englishman was working as a radio and theater actor when he was invited to audition for *Star Wars*. But Anthony Daniels wasn't a sci-fi fan—he once asked for a refund for his ticket to *2001: A Space Odyssey*—so he initially turned down the opportunity. His agent made him reconsider, however, and Daniels liked the description and concept artwork for C-3PO so much that he was thrilled when landed the role.

Despite its rigors—including wearing 60 pounds of metal in the

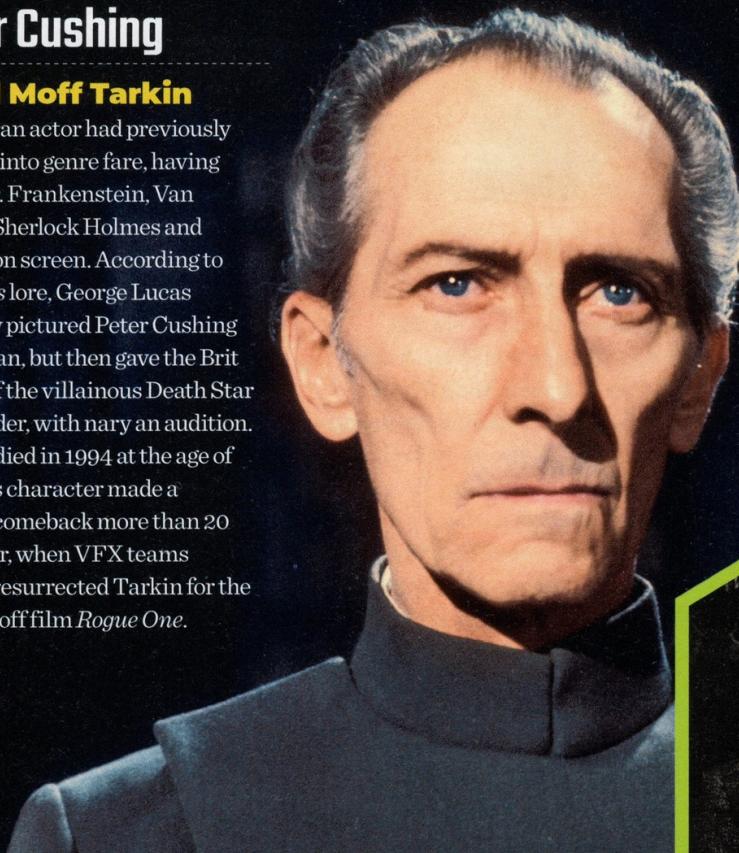
Tunisian heat—Daniels eventually connected with Threepio, as he told starwars.com in 2019. "He's a slightly prim, overeducated, over-didactic, preachy character who has got this tremendous vulnerability."



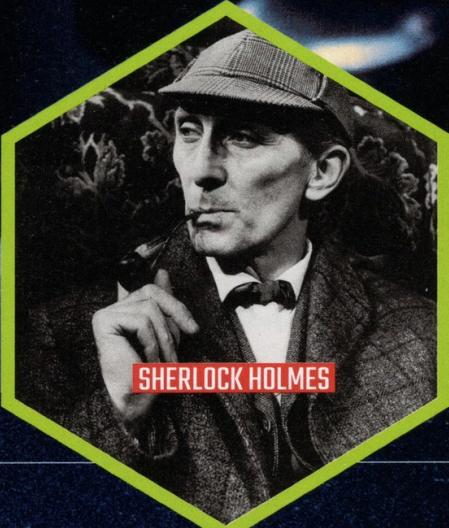
Peter Cushing

Grand Moff Tarkin

The veteran actor had previously ventured into genre fare, having played Dr. Frankenstein, Van Helsing, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Who on screen. According to *Star Wars* lore, George Lucas originally pictured Peter Cushing as Obi-Wan, but then gave the Brit the role of the villainous Death Star commander, with nary an audition. Cushing died in 1994 at the age of 81, but his character made a surprise comeback more than 20 years later, when VFX teams digitally resurrected Tarkin for the 2016 spinoff film *Rogue One*.



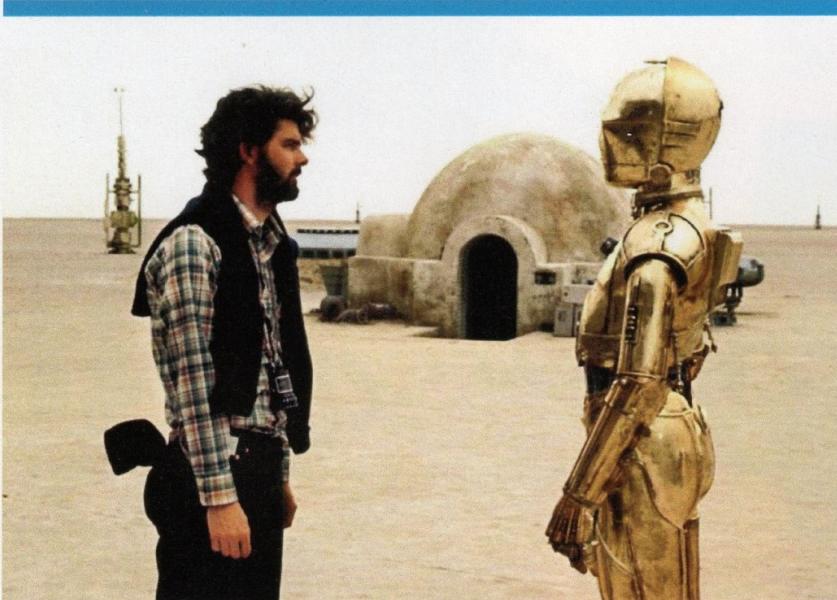
SHERLOCK HOLMES



TROUBLE

IT WASN'T EXACTLY SMOOTH SAILING FOR GEORGE LUCAS AS HE FILMED *STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE.*

BY RYAN BRITT

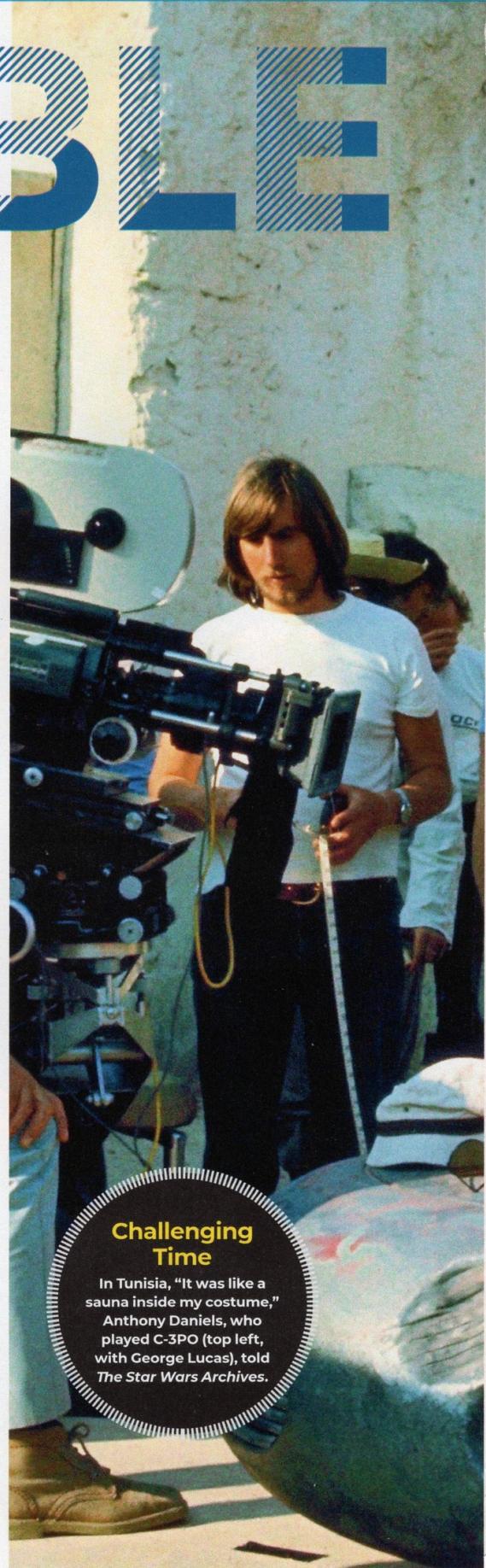


Filming the first *Star Wars* nearly killed George Lucas. Following multiple Oscar nominations for *American Graffiti* in 1974, the California native was a hot, up-and-coming director in Hollywood. But to the British crew who worked on *Star Wars*, he was a zany upstart with delusions of grandeur.

If writing the film had been challenging, actually shooting it was nearly impossible. In 1976, Lucas was 28 years old and trying to make "a film that nobody understood in a genre that nobody liked." His hardships started in the desert of Tunisia, where the

very first pieces of *Star Wars* magic were put onto celluloid. While his name was still Luke Starkiller in the script, Lucas and actor Mark Hamill kicked things off by shooting the scene where we first see Luke on Tatooine after Aunt Beru calls to him.

Visually, the location was everything Lucas wanted, but the extreme temperatures—boiling hot during the day and freezing cold at night—wreaked havoc with the cameras and equipment. And while rainstorms were not common in Tunisia, one came out of nowhere, forcing production into a standstill. Lucas has often said that day on the set was one he would "never forget."



Challenging Time

In Tunisia, "It was like a sauna inside my costume," Anthony Daniels, who played C-3PO (top left, with George Lucas), told *The Star Wars Archives*.

ON THE SET



"We were doing six days a week and having one day off, and we were trying to stay away from getting sick; we were careful about what we ate," Mark Hamill (seated, with a helmetless Daniels and Alec Guinness) told the *Virginia Quarterly Review*.

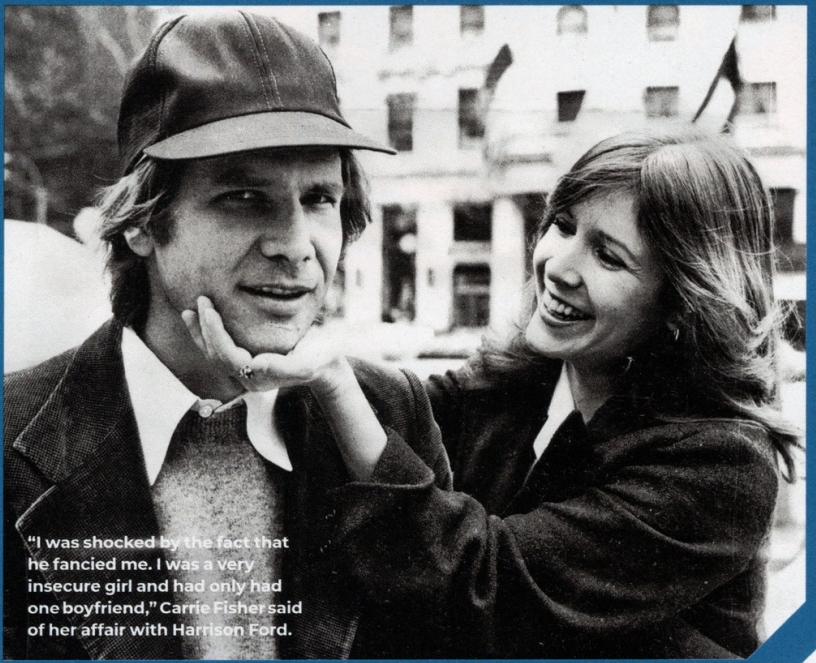


As if the forces of nature working against him weren't bad enough, the director had an internal rebellion, too. In the early days of shooting, Lucas clashed with his British cinematographer, Gil Taylor, over questions of visual style. Lucas wanted a soft focus, to convey an old-fashioned type of storytelling. Taylor—who'd worked with veteran directors Stanley Kubrick and Alfred Hitchcock—didn't get it and pushed back, sometimes even defying Lucas' instructions. This friction extended to the British crew at the U.K.-based Elstree Studios. As Hamill recalled, the negative attitude stemmed from the simple fact that mainstream sci-fi was basically unheard of in the U.K. at that time. According to the 2021 oral history *Secrets of the Force*, Hamill said they "had nothing to compare it to," other than maybe the low-budget TV series *Doctor Who*.

Although Lucas always had support from the art department and enjoyed his collaboration with composer John Williams, he faced pushback from his cast. Notoriously, Lucas has never been seen as an actor's director. In the

A Secret Affair

Although rumored for decades, Carrie Fisher waited 30 years to reveal that she did indeed have an affair with Harrison Ford on the set of the first film. In her 2016 memoir, *The Princess Diarist*, Fisher shared her personal writings from the 1976 production of *Star Wars*. At the time, Ford was a married man, and their illicit romance was top secret. During their dalliance, Fisher described Ford in her diary as "a real Marlboro man. The type who pours the beer out and eats the can."





"Even if he has a storm going on inside of him, he's very calm and soothing," Hamill (above, with Carrie Fisher and Lucas) said of the director. Top left: The final scene featured hundreds of extras but no dialogue.

1984 book *Skywalking: The Life and Films of George Lucas*, Hamill joked that if he could make films without actors, "I suspect that he would." Whenever the cast attempted to convince Lucas to change some dialogue, he usually refused. Harrison Ford (Han Solo) would do it anyway, famously saying that the wordy lines were hard to deliver: "You can type this s--t, but you can't say it!"

Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia) and the rest of the cast joked that Lucas' only real note for the actors was "faster and more intense!" She also clashed with him over her character's white dress because he told her she couldn't wear a bra. His bizarre argument: There would be no bras in space because the potential zero gravity would cause you to be strangled by your undergarment. In her 2008 memoir, *Wishful Drinking*, Fisher cracked, "I want it reported

Droid Rage

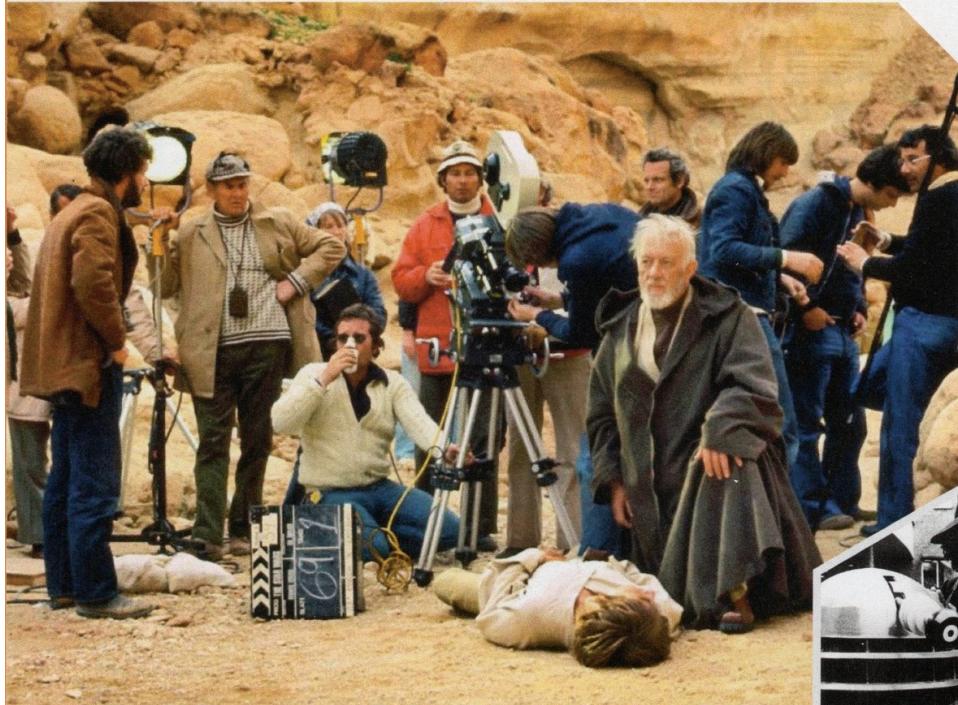


Through nine "Skywalker Saga" films, made from 1976 to 2019, the droids R2-D2 and C-3PO have bickered about everything. In 2016, while promoting *Rogue One*, director Gareth Edwards said the robots were his favorite *Star Wars* couple, joking the two had a "sexual" relationship. But in real life, there was no love lost between actors Anthony Daniels (C-3PO) and Kenny Baker (R2-D2)—in fact, they weren't even friends. The diminutive Baker famously referred to Daniels as "golden balls" and said in a 2009 interview with *Metro* that Daniels had "degraded" him and called him "little man." Furthermore, in 2011, Daniels dismissed Baker's contributions to the films and told *The Mirror*, "He might as well be a bucket." In 2019, three years after Baker's death, Daniels still held a grudge, telling *The Daily Express*, "Kenny decided that he wanted to say unkind, unpleasant, rude, hurtful things. It got worse and worse."

Making the Role His Own

George Lucas initially wanted C-3PO to be a "used-car dealer kind of guy" but "Anthony Daniels made him a fussy butler," which he loved.





that I drowned in moonlight, strangled by my own bra." Still, Fisher, who later worked as a script doctor, occasionally defended Lucas, saying that the "style" of his writing was the "one thing" he made clear to the cast.

Amid on-set shooting difficulties, the filmmaker also encountered problems with his novice special effects team, later known as Industrial Light & Magic. Originally, *Star Wars* was scheduled to be released in December 1976. But in July, when Lucas returned to California after shooting in England, he discovered that the

department had only finished two out of the required 365 shots needed to complete the film. Essentially, none of the spaceship scenes were done. This setback caused Lucas to have chest pains, leading to a diagnosis of hypertension and a brief stay in the hospital. At this point, the stress of trying to make *Star Wars* nearly killed him.

However, after 20th Century Fox agreed to push back the release date to the summer of 1977, certain problems began to morph into creative solutions. In fact, much of the acclaimed pacing and momentum of the final cut can be credited to the post-production process. Lucas' then-wife, Marcia Lucas, was a skilled film editor, and along with Paul Hirsch, managed to trim down an unwieldy, overstuffed movie into the more

From top: "Alec Guinness had the patience of a saint putting up with us," Hamill tweeted in 2019; the crew compared the film to *Doctor Who*; Guinness said Ford was "a rangy, languid young man...probably intelligent and amusing."

“

There's a sort of wonderful freshness about it...like a wonderful fresh air.”

ALEC GUINNESS, AFTER SEEING THE FILM FOR THE FIRST TIME

streamlined flick we all love. Under Marcia's tutelage, the gripping attack on the Death Star was substantially altered. As shot, Luke Skywalker made two attempts to get his proton torpedoes into the exhaust port at the end of the Death Star trench. But thanks to smart decisions in the editing room, that climactic scene was whittled down to one do-or-die moment. Most film historians and *Star Wars* experts agree: Had Marcia not utilized her considerable skills as an editor, the original *Star Wars* would have been an overlong, confusing mess.

By the time of its release on May 25, 1977, there was a strategic plan in place to make sure sci-fi devotees and college students were convinced to purchase tickets for opening day. Publicist Charles Lippincott smartly marketed the movie at San Diego Comic-Con and insisted the publicity campaign for *Star Wars* be focused on

younger demographics, like college radio stations. The hope was this strategy would give the film early word-of-mouth credibility.

As *Star Wars* arrived in theaters, the director and his wife were on a beach far, far away, in Hawaii with his pal Steven Spielberg. As Lucas told Stephen Colbert in 2015, this was something of a tradition when all of his films were released: "I don't read reviews. I just go lay on a beach."

However, while in Hawaii, he got a phone call from Fox president Alan Ladd Jr.—and it was good news: *Star Wars* was not only a smash but on track to be the biggest movie of all time. Incredulous, Lucas believed the success would be short-lived, once sci-fi fans moved on to the next craze. As he later explained to Colbert, he told Ladd to expect the film's hype to die down in "two weeks," and for *Star Wars* to be forgotten. Luckily, he was wrong.

By the Numbers

\$70 billion

How much the *Star Wars* franchise was estimated to be worth in 2020.

37

The total number of Oscar nominations the 11 live-action films have received. That said, the only film to have been nominated for Best Picture was the first one. It lost to *Annie Hall* in 1978.

\$750

Mark Hamill's weekly salary during the filming of *Star Wars* in 1976.

32

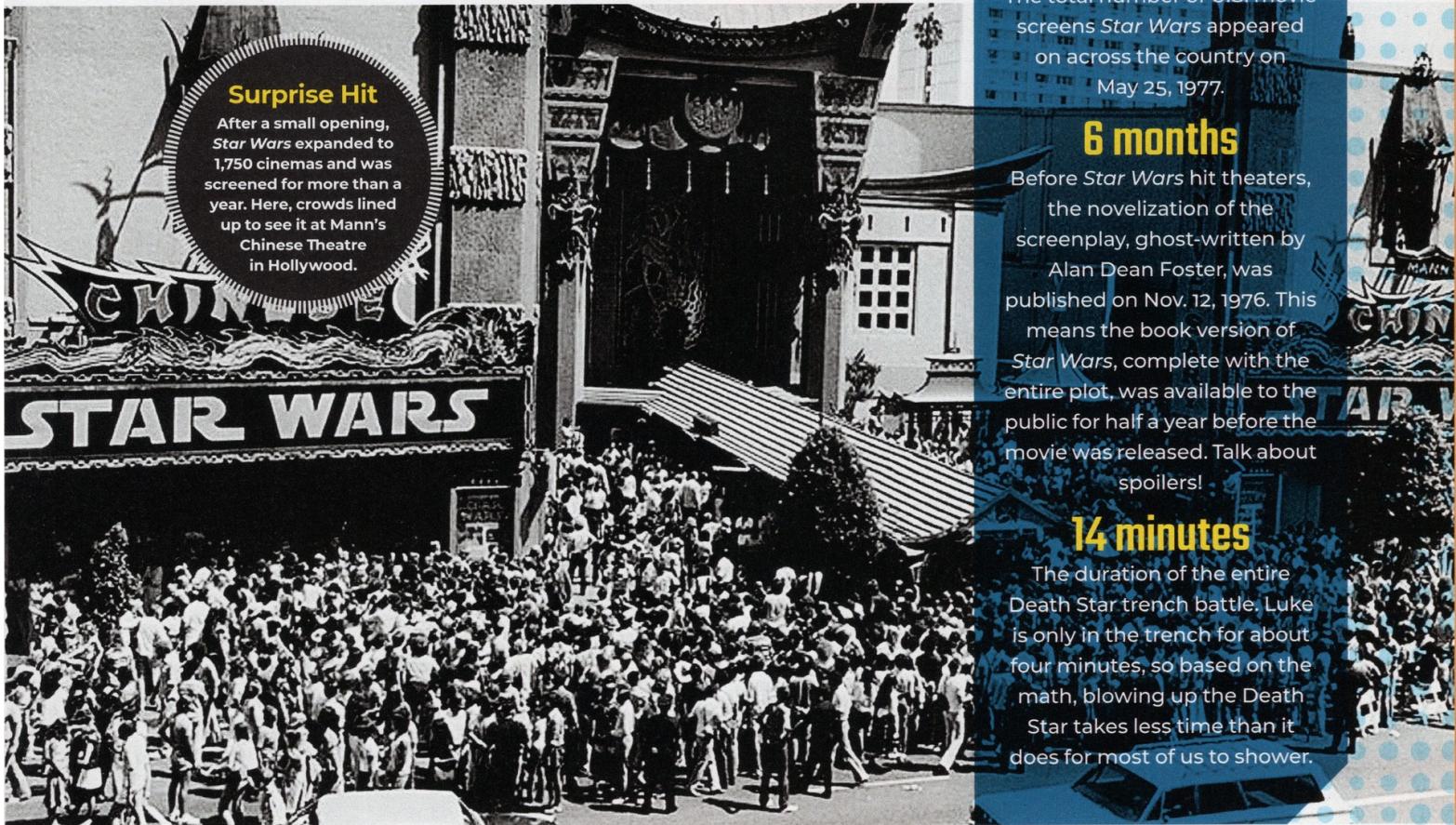
The total number of U.S. movie screens *Star Wars* appeared on across the country on May 25, 1977.

6 months

Before *Star Wars* hit theaters, the novelization of the screenplay, ghost-written by Alan Dean Foster, was published on Nov. 12, 1976. This means the book version of *Star Wars*, complete with the entire plot, was available to the public for half a year before the movie was released. Talk about spoilers!

14 minutes

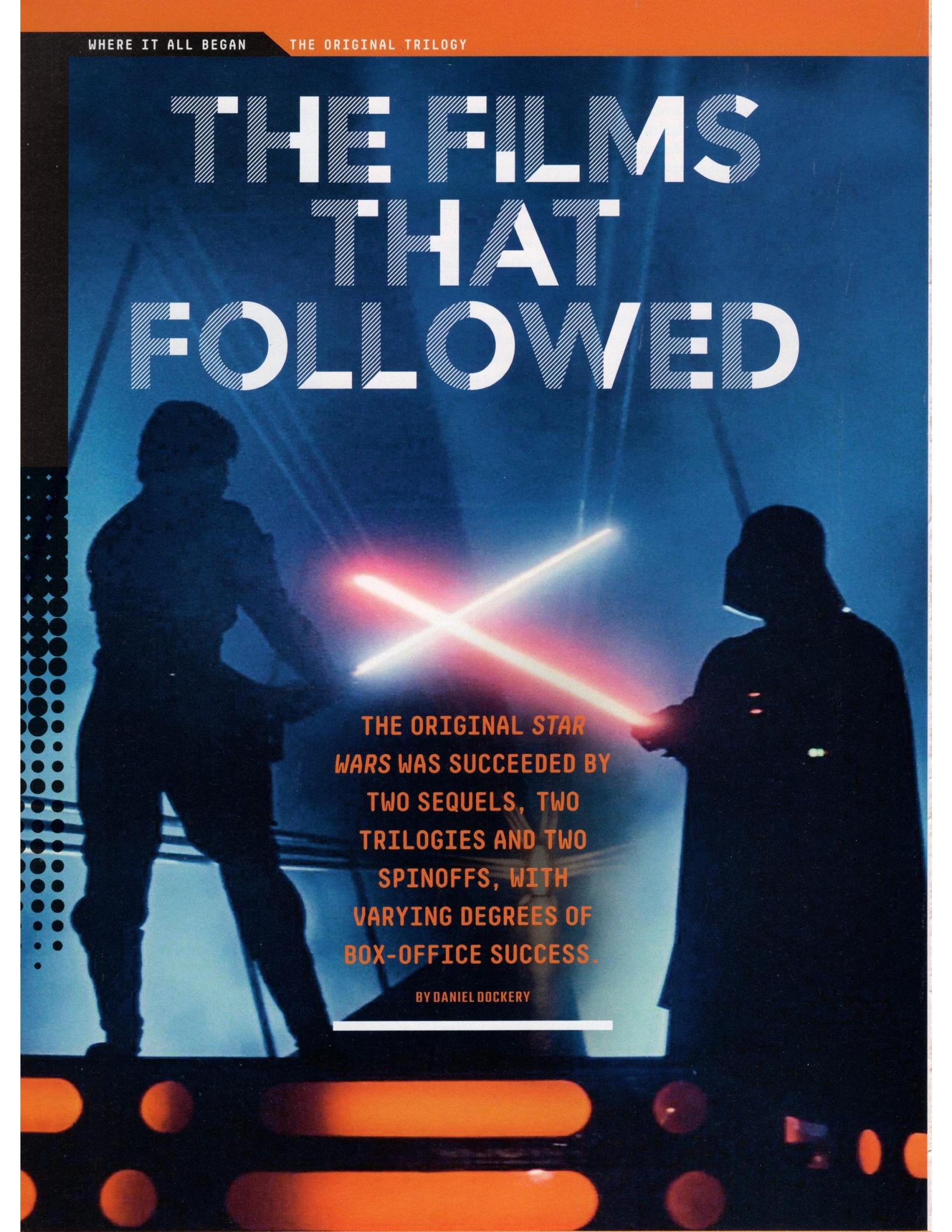
The duration of the entire Death Star trench battle. Luke is only in the trench for about four minutes, so based on the math, blowing up the Death Star takes less time than it does for most of us to shower.



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

THE ORIGINAL TRILOGY

THE FILMS THAT FOLLOWED



THE ORIGINAL STAR
WARS WAS SUCCEEDED BY
TWO SEQUELS, TWO
TRILOGIES AND TWO
SPINOFFS, WITH
VARYING DEGREES OF
BOX-OFFICE SUCCESS.

BY DANIEL DOCKERY

The Empire Strikes Back

1980

Widely recognized as not just one of the best *Star Wars* films but one of the greatest sequels of all time, *Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back* would earn \$401.5 million worldwide and give the trio of Luke (Mark Hamill), Han (Harrison Ford) and Leia (Carrie Fisher) their darkest hours. After an escape from the icy wasteland of Hoth, Luke absconds to Dagobah to learn the ins and outs of being a Jedi from the reclusive Yoda (Frank Oz).

Meanwhile, the others head to Cloud City where they're double-crossed by Han's old pal Lando Calrissian (Billy Dee Williams). By the end, Luke loses a hand and learns that Darth Vader (David Prowse/James Earl Jones) is his father, while Han is frozen in carbonite and shipped off to Jabba the Hutt.

Since its U.S. release on May 21, 1980, *The Empire Strikes Back*, which was directed by Irvin Kershner, has served as a how-to guide for expanding a fantasy universe. "You have a feeling that you want to know more at all times," *Rolling Stone* wrote. Even films like 2008's *The Dark Knight* seem to borrow a page from its handbook, with stories that take the characters from the first flick and test their bonds. The sequel also added depth to Vader, turning him into a tortured antagonist balancing his newfound paternity with his dedication to the Empire.



Return of the Jedi

1983

The original trilogy was rounded off by *Episode VI: Return of the Jedi*, giving fans an epic sequel that not only had to serve as the capper to one of the most famous science fiction stories of all time but also contend with its status as a massive franchise. As such, scenes like the thrilling escape from Jabba and the Sarlacc pit and the heart-wrenching confrontation between Luke, Vader and the Emperor (Ian McDiarmid) almost seem like they're from a different film than the Ewoks. Audiences didn't mind, as the movie, directed by Richard Marquand, scored \$475.3 million worldwide after its release on May 25, 1983. "It's a little amazing how [creator George] Lucas and his associates keep topping themselves," the *Chicago Tribune*'s Roger Ebert wrote.

As a finale, *Return of the Jedi* does its job. Watching Vader throw the Emperor into the heart of the second Death Star and later being forgiven by Luke is a satisfying conclusion to the steadily building tension of the trilogy. And not even Ford seemingly sleepwalking through his role can dampen the exciting pace, as the action jumps around across the galaxy. It would be the last *Star Wars* film released for 16 years—so for an entire generation, the sight of the heroes partying on Endor truly seemed like the end.

Clockwise from top: Carrie Fisher said she "hated" her bikini; the Sarlacc pit was filmed in Arizona; the Ewoks starred in a cartoon series; Billy Dee Williams was a welcome addition; so was Yoda; Harrison Ford's face was cast in plaster for the carbonite model.





Liam Neeson (left) told Collider that he'd like to reunite with Ewan McGregor in the latter's upcoming Disney+ series, *Obi-Wan Kenobi*.

The Phantom Menace

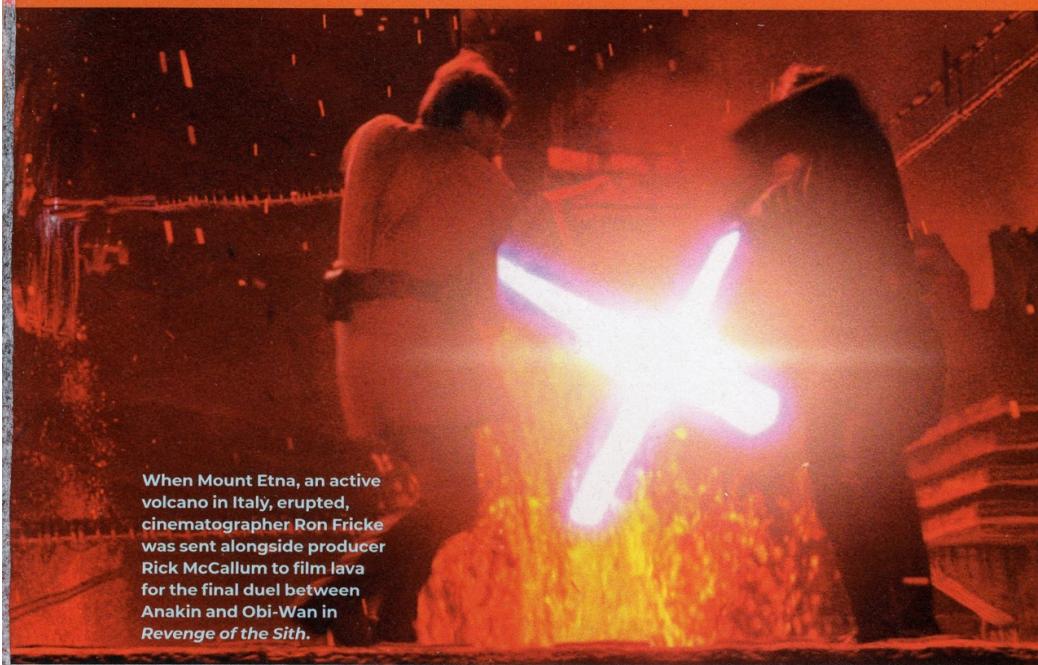
1999

Few films have been as eagerly awaited as *Episode I: The Phantom Menace*, the first movie in a prequel trilogy that saw Lucas back in the director's chair. The hype propelled it to a \$924.3 million worldwide gross, as fans were eager to learn the secrets of Anakin Skywalker, the boy who would become Darth Vader. Shepherded by Jedi Knights Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) and Qui-Gon Jinn (Liam Neeson), Anakin (Jake Lloyd) is whisked away from his

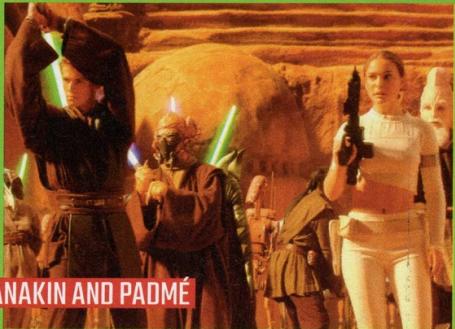
desert home in order to serve as the seed of a prophecy, all while pressure rises between the Galactic Republic, the Trade Federation, the Jedi and the resurrected Sith.

But for every amazing lightsaber battle with the demonic Darth Maul (Ray Park) or high-stakes pod race, *The Phantom Menace* abounds with clunky narrative choices and characters like Jar Jar Binks (Ahmed Best), the maligned comic relief. Jar Jar would define the film for many

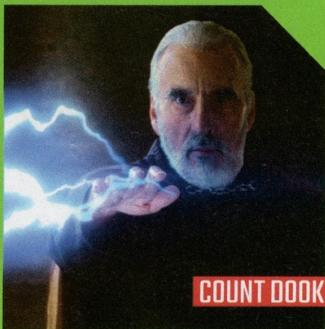
jaded fans, a misfire that betrayed their memories of the original trilogy. The film's release on May 19, 1999, would be a turning point for the series, and the divide between the conflicted feelings over the prequels and the nostalgia for the classic trilogy would be the subject of heated debate for decades. "I'd like to go on record as saying I dug it," filmmaker Kevin Smith wrote in a review on his View Askew website. "It's a good movie with great moments."



When Mount Etna, an active volcano in Italy, erupted, cinematographer Ron Fricke was sent alongside producer Rick McCallum to film lava for the final duel between Anakin and Obi-Wan in *Revenge of the Sith*.



ANAKIN AND PADMÉ



COUNT DOOKU

Attack of the Clones

2002

When *Episode II: Attack of the Clones* was released on May 16, 2002, it was clear that Lucas was doubling down on the messages and proclivities he had revealed in *The Phantom Menace*. Though Jar Jar was reduced to a bit part, heavy CGI battlefields and weird dialogue ran rampant. However, with the introduction of the Clone Army, Lucas' story about rising fascism and paranoia makes the film fascinating thematically, at the very least.

The story—set 10 years after *The Phantom Menace*—sees Anakin (Hayden Christensen), trained by Kenobi and dealing with his feelings for Padmé Amidala

(Natalie Portman), struggling with his anger as he tries to stop society from tearing itself apart. “The glowering, preening Christensen delivers a suitably tortured performance,” Chris Hewitt wrote in *Empire* magazine.

Meanwhile, Darth Sidious (Ian McDiarmid) and Count Dooku (Christopher Lee) pull the strings to ensure the Siths’ victory, a win that not even Yoda can prevent. Fans also learned the origin of Boba Fett (Daniel Logan), as the bounty hunter was revealed to be a cloned child who inherited his father’s lethal skills. A mixed critical reception and fans’ ill will toward the prior movie saw a reduced take of \$645 million worldwide for the film.



BOBA FETT

Revenge of the Sith

2005

Episode III: Revenge of the Sith is a dour affair—the Republic falls, Palpatine usurps control, the Jedi are either massacred or forced into hiding. Amidala dies giving birth and, after a duel on the lava planet Mustafar, Anakin is maimed by his former friend and teacher Kenobi. By the end of the film, which raked in \$868.4 million worldwide, Anakin has completed his transformation into Darth Vader (below). His first act as the new Sith lord? A hearty “Noooooooooooooo!” upon learning of his wife’s demise. It’s a moment that spawned thousands of memes.

Released on May 19, 2005, *Revenge of the Sith* is the most solid film in the prequel trilogy, mainly because Lucas expertly wrangled its tone. “Star Wars fans have finally been rewarded for their patience. George has made another masterpiece,” CinemaBlend raved. Even things like General Grievous, the wheezing cyborg (Matthew Wood) who carries way too many lightsabers, doesn’t feel too out of place as the director finally hits his stride in this particular trilogy. Lucas truly sticks the landing, ensuring Anakin’s transformation from naive child to ultimate bad guy is a fairly natural one. It would be the last live-action *Star Wars* film for a decade.



A New Crew

From left: Diego Luna, Felicity Jones, Riz Ahmed and Donnie Yen. Luna is reprising his role in the Disney+ series *Andor*, set five years before the events of *Rogue One*.

Rogue One

2016

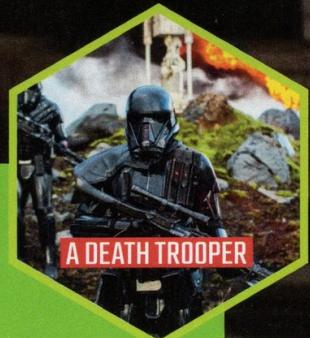
Ushering in the new era of live-action spinoffs from the Skywalker Saga that would give us TV gems like *The Mandalorian* and *The Book of Boba Fett*, *Rogue One* is one of the franchise's most memorable outings, with *Variety* hailing it as "the first *Star Wars* movie for grown-ups." It tells the story of Jyn Erso (Felicity Jones), former prisoner of the Empire who teams up with a group of Rebels to steal the schematics of the Death Star. A true "suicide squad," both the

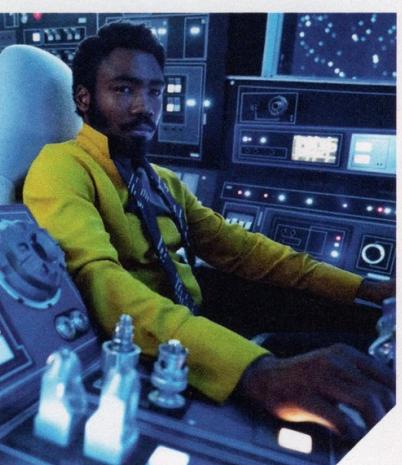
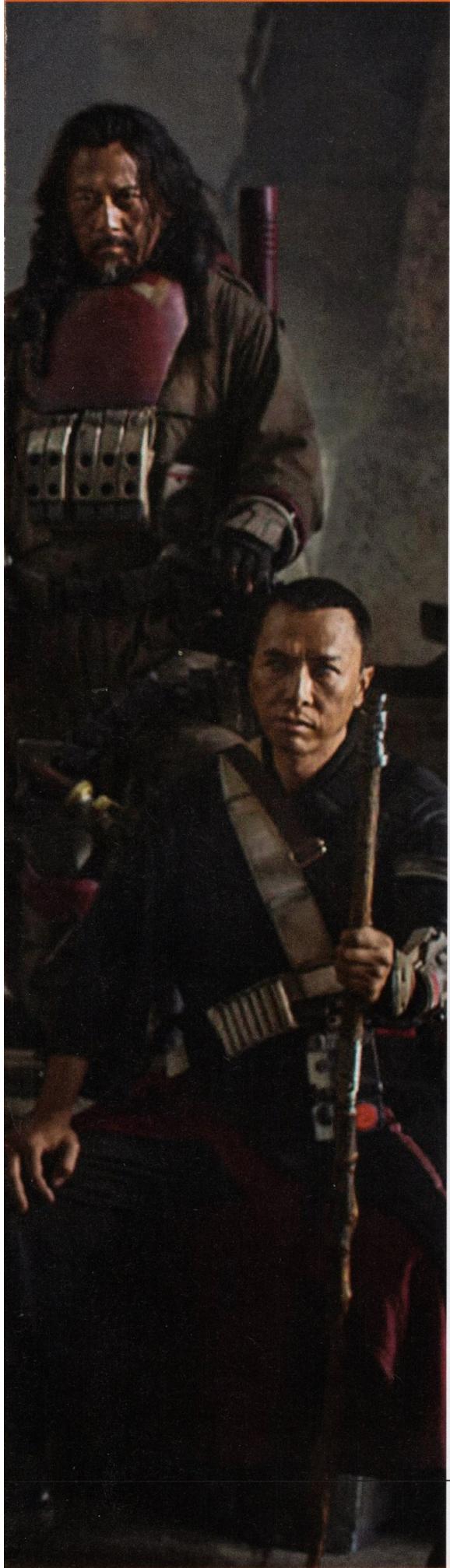
body count and the stakes are high, and *Rogue One* uses the undercover-siege genre to play with Lucas' original swashbuckling, planet-hopping intentions for the series.

Earning \$1.056 billion at the global box office following its release on Dec. 16, 2016, *Rogue One*'s success came with its fair share of production drama. It had an astronomical budget (reportedly \$220 million) and in the summer of 2016, it would be subjected to highly

publicized reshoots. However, whatever tinkering was done led to something truly dynamic and often downright touching from director Gareth Edwards.

Grab a tissue, because you will sob while blind warrior Chirrut Îmwe (Donnie Yen) repeats his "I am one with the Force and the Force is with me" mantra as he sacrifices himself, and gasp as Darth Vader cuts through an entire platoon of soldiers.





Solo

2018

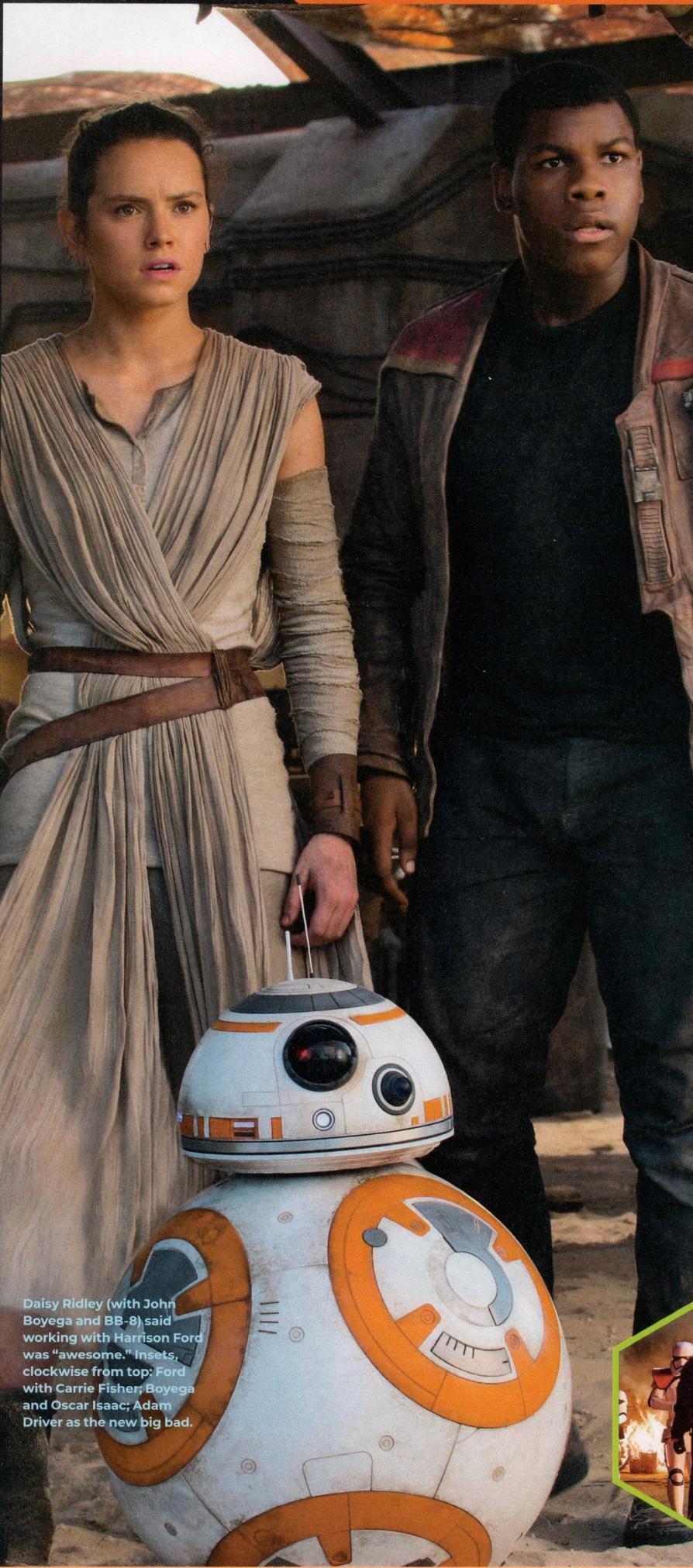
Like *Rogue One*, this Han Solo origin story also had its behind-the-scenes overhauls. Its original directors, Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, who'd helmed *The Lego Movie*, were replaced by Ron Howard. When *Solo* was released on May 25, 2018, it only earned \$393.2 million worldwide, a heady sum by any standards—but for *Star Wars*, it is the lowest-grossing live-action film in the franchise.

That said, *Solo* isn't without its delights. Set 10 years before the events of the original *Star Wars* film, we see the young smuggler embodied with appropriate swagger by Alden Ehrenreich, and Han's early adventures dealing with criminals, double-crossers and the Empire. We also meet Han's love interest, Qi'ra (Emilia Clarke), his mentor Tobias Beckett (Woody Harrelson), Chewbacca, and a young Lando Calrissian, played by Donald Glover in a performance that's begging for a Disney+ spinoff (see page 64).

Overall, it's a fun romp, with its worst crime likely being that it feels fairly inconsequential. Does Han need an origin story in order to feel like a fleshed-out character? The original trilogy says no, rendering *Solo*—one of the most expensive films ever made—a neat diversion rather than necessary viewing. *The New York Times'* A.O. Scott pointed out that the film answered "a lot of questions" you may not have thought to ask, making it "in effect a filmed Wikipedia page."



From top: Harrison Ford told director Ron Howard that Alden Ehrenreich "nailed it" and made the part of Han Solo "his own"; Emilia Clarke's character got her own comic book series in 2021—*Star Wars: Crimson Reign*; fans' demands to see more of Donald Glover as Lando Calrissian may soon come true.



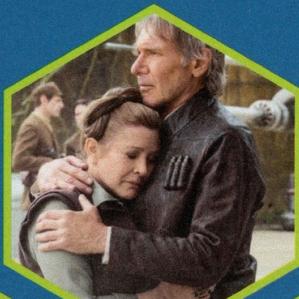
Daisy Ridley (with John Boyega and BB-8) said working with Harrison Ford was "awesome." Insets, clockwise from top: Ford with Carrie Fisher; Boyega and Oscar Isaac; Adam Driver as the new big bad.

The Force Awakens

2015

Star Wars fans got the sequel they'd been waiting more than 30 years for when *Episode VII: The Force Awakens* was released on Dec. 18, 2015. The film kicked off a new trilogy, raking in a gargantuan \$2.068 billion worldwide. It also effectively recast the first film's protagonists— orphan Rey (Daisy Ridley), stormtrooper defector Finn (John Boyega) and hotshot pilot Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac)—with Han and Leia in mentorship roles. Together, they battle the First Order, a Galactic Empire remix seeking total domination (and with a big space station).

Director J.J. Abrams, fresh off his *Star Trek* reboot, delivers something exciting and charmingly nostalgic, even after First Order commander and Darth Vader cosplayer Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) plunges a lightsaber into his father Han's chest. In short, *The Force Awakens* is a total crowd pleaser, meant to introduce *Star Wars* to a new generation while keeping the faith of older fans who may have begrudged the boldness of its prequels. "What's most striking... is the fact that this multimillion dollar franchise blockbuster has real heart and soul," *The Observer's* Mark Kermode wrote. But the ride to come would be a bumpy one.





Fans of the original trilogy were delighted with the return of Chewbacca and C-3PO, but unsure about seeing villain Kylo (Driver) and Rey (Ridley) kiss in *The Rise of Skywalker* (inset, right).

The Last Jedi

2017

Episode VIII: The Last Jedi took the crown of Most Divisive *Star Wars* Film from *The Phantom Menace*. Released on Dec. 15, 2017, *The Last Jedi*—directed by Rian Johnson—is built like a classic *Star Wars* film, all while seemingly rejecting the ethos many held dear. The reverence *The Force Awakens* held for the original trilogy is gone, with the rediscovered Luke a far cry from the aged hero many expected. Instead, he's an angry outcast, desperate to be left alone and emotionally wounded by his failures. "At last we have, for the first time in ages, a *Star Wars* movie

that's all too happy to go where we don't expect," Den of Geek wrote.

To some, it's the most thoughtful film in the series. To others it's a degradation of everything the *Star Wars* franchise stands for. New characters—including Rose Tico (Kelly Marie Tran), Vice-Admiral Amilyn Holdo (Laura Dern) and a scene-chewing Benicio del Toro as code-breaker DJ—ensure there's no skimping on human drama or evolving relationships, but *The Last Jedi* would be the second trilogy in a row to take a box-office dip with the second film, making \$1.333 billion.



LUKE SKYWALKER



VICE-ADMIRAL HODO

DJ



The Rise of Skywalker

2019

The final film in the sequel trilogy, *Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker*, is both a course correction following the debate over *The Last Jedi* and an attempt at a satisfying grand finale for the Skywalker Saga. Sadly, it accomplishes these things by wiping away a lot of what made both *The Force Awakens* and *The Last Jedi* so interesting. Released on Dec. 20, 2019, it feels a little desperate as it reintroduces Palpatine as the final bad guy for the third trilogy in a row—and not even the return of Billy Dee Williams as Lando can help.

The Rise of Skywalker would take a further step down in global box-office receipts, earning \$1.074 billion. This is likely due to the fact the story feels like it's on autopilot, hitting the notes that fans expect (Kylo Ren and Rey kiss and the First Order is finally defeated), yet without much fanfare. "There's a passion lacking in the movie's big scenes," wrote *Vanity Fair*'s Richard Lawson.

After *The Rise of Skywalker*, it seemed like what the *Star Wars* film franchise needed most was a break. While Disney+ has kept fans more than happy with a number of hit series, several big-screen projects are also in the pipeline (see page 40).

BIG SCREEN PLANS

WHEN IS THE NEXT STAR WARS MOVIE COMING OUT? BY BRYAN YOUNG



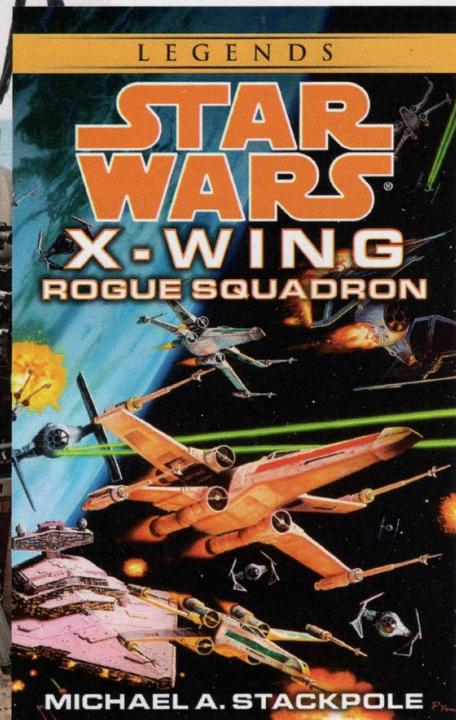
Top Gun

The 10 books in the *X-Wing* series take place in the 15 years after the events of *A New Hope*. Familiar characters include Wedge Antilles, Admiral Ackbar and Han Solo.



Star Wars has always had a primary home on the big screen. The original, released in 1977, was in theaters continuously for more than a year. George Lucas himself pushed for improvements in projection and sound that we now take for granted in movie theaters, and the effects extravaganzas are meant for cinema screens. But there has not been a theatrical *Star Wars* since 2019's *The Rise of Skywalker*. When will a new film come out? Well, that depends.

The next scheduled flick was the Patty Jenkins-helmed *Star Wars: Rogue Squadron*. It was delayed from Christmas 2023 so the director could work on the next *Wonder Woman*, and she dropped out of her planned *Cleopatra* project to stay attached to the high-speed world of *Star Wars* fighter pilots. According to Lucasfilm, "The story will introduce a new generation of starfighter pilots as they earn their wings and risk their lives in a boundary-pushing, high-speed thrill

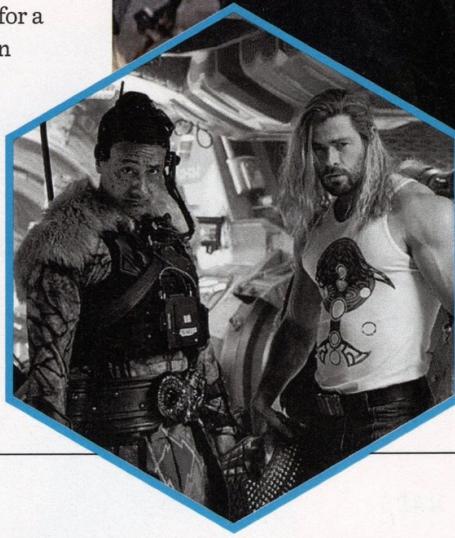


Patty Jenkins (far left) on the 2017 set of *Wonder Woman* with Gal Gadot. The third film reportedly won't begin filming until the summer of 2023.

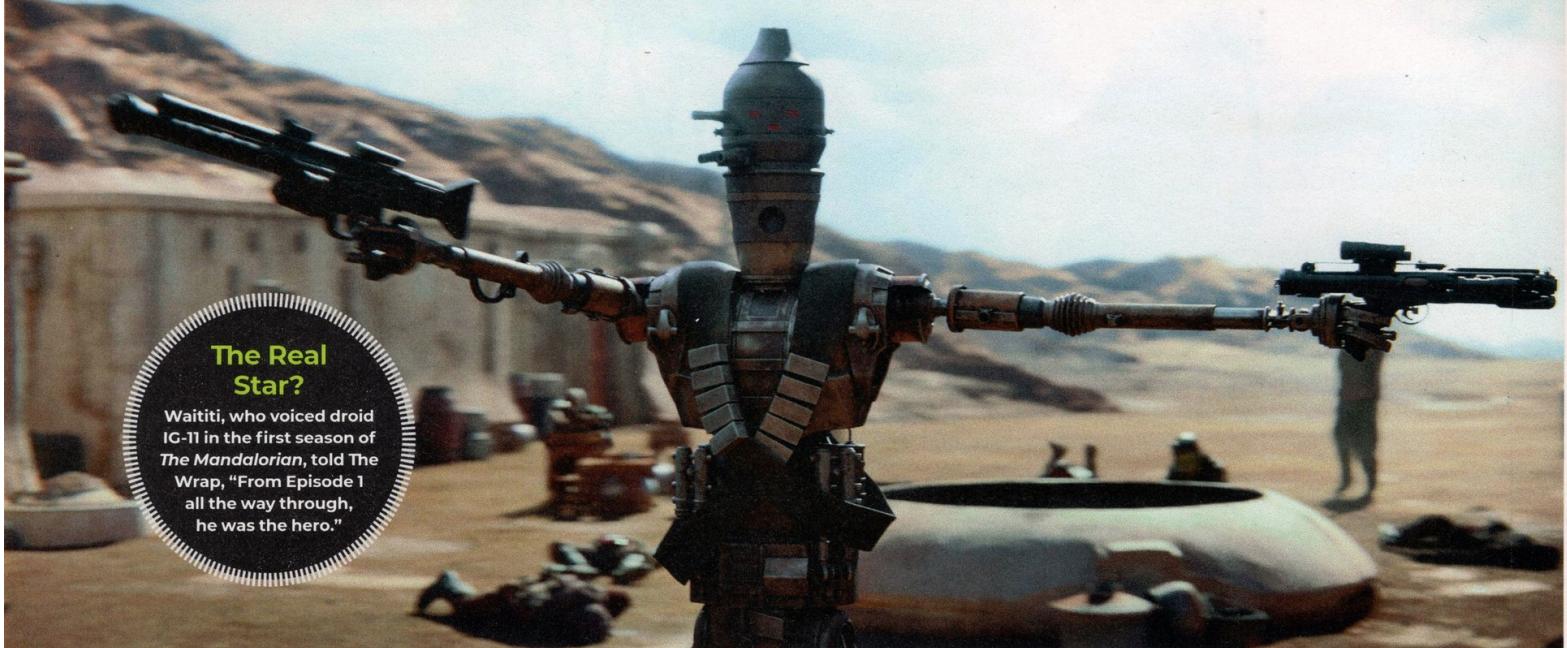
ride, and move the saga into the future era of the galaxy."

Many hoped the movie would adapt material from the classic *X-Wing* books by Michael A. Stackpole and Aaron Allston, but Jenkins told IGN that they would merely serve as inspiration: "We're doing something original with great influence from the games and the books. There's a lot of things being acknowledged and understood about the greatness of all of those things, but yes, it's an original story, and I'm so psyched to do it." But with the delay, there is no time line for *Rogue Squadron*'s release.

The next likeliest candidate for a *Star Wars* film on the big screen comes from Taika Waititi. The Academy Award winner has directed classic art house films (2016's *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, and 2019's *Jojo Rabbit*) and blockbuster tentpoles (2017's *Thor: Ragnarok* and the upcoming *Thor: Love and Thunder*). His unique sense of style, scale



Taika Waititi shared this photo from the set of *The Mandalorian* on Instagram for Father's Day in 2020. Left: The director revealed on the social network he'd wrapped filming on *Thor: Love and Thunder* with Chris Hemsworth in June 2021.

**The Real Star?**

Waititi, who voiced droid IG-11 in the first season of *The Mandalorian*, told *The Wrap*, "From Episode 1 all the way through, he was the hero."



Rian Johnson on the set of *The Last Jedi* with Joonas Suotamo (Chewbacca). Right: With John Boyega and Oscar Isaac in 2017.

and humor make him a perfect director to do something new in a galaxy far, far away. Add to that his appearance as bounty hunter droid IG-11 in *The Mandalorian* as well as his time directing the Season 1 finale of the hit Disney+ series—is there a better candidate than Waititi?

Although there isn't yet much information on his *Star Wars* offering, Waititi, who's writing the script with Academy Award nominee Krysty Wilson-Cairns (*1917*), told *Wired* in August 2021: "It's still in the 'EXT. SPACE' stage, but we've got a story. I'm really excited by it because it feels very me."

While there are other *Star Wars* films in development, they all seem to be a little further down the line. Before *The Last Jedi* was released in



2017, Lucasfilm signed its director, Rian Johnson, to a trilogy of *Star Wars* projects that remain in development. Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy found working with Johnson to be a dream and, onstage at Star Wars Celebration in 2016, even compared him to her first boss, saying, "Rian Johnson moves a camera as well as Steven Spielberg."

In an interview with io9, Johnson gave the biggest hints about what his new trilogy—which is separate from the Skywalker Saga—would be: "One story told over three movies, on that big canvas of the *Star Wars* world. But—go someplace new, meet some new folks, tell a new story." Disney gave the films the green light in November 2017, with Kennedy saying in a press release that "Rian will do amazing things with the blank canvas of this new trilogy."

While clickbait sites and YouTubers continue to claim Johnson's epic project has been canceled, the director takes to Twitter every so often to strike down the rumors. "No it isn't true, I'm still working on the trilogy," he tweeted in February 2019. "With all due respect to the movie bros, who I'm sure are lovely kind bros with good fraternal intentions."

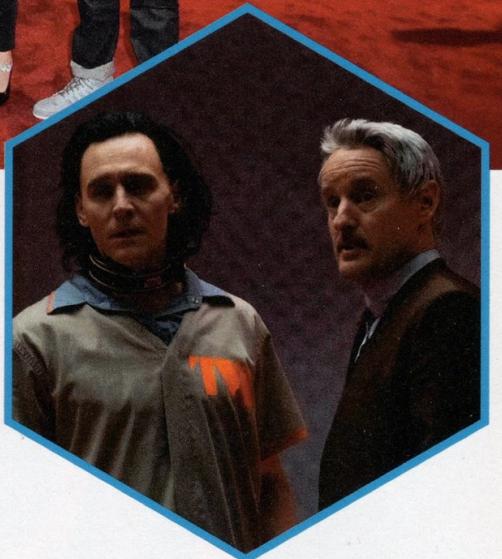
Until then, Johnson is currently working on more *Knives Out* movies for Netflix and is expected to roll into *Star Wars* sometime after that.

Marvel Studios boss Kevin Feige is also developing a film in the *Star Wars* universe as a producer. Word began trickling out in 2019 but only bits of information have come out since then. *Loki* screenwriter Michael Waldron is attached to work on the screenplay, yet Feige remains tight-lipped, telling *The Hollywood Reporter* in 2019, "I love that world and I love the notion of exploring new people and new places in that universe. But that's sort of all that can be said for now."

The other *Star Wars* film in development, though not officially announced by Lucasfilm, comes



Kevin Feige and wife Caitlin at the 2016 *Rogue One* premiere. Right: Tom Hiddleston and Owen Wilson in Disney+ series *Loki*. The show's writer Michael Waldron is working on a *Star Wars* film and told *GQ*, "I think *Star Wars*, at its best, is a story about family. Han, Luke and Leia were a family."



from *Sleight* director J.D. Dillard and writer Matt Owens (*Luke Cage* and *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*). Dillard played a stormtrooper in *The Rise of Skywalker* and is a big *Star Wars* fan. Very little is known about his secret project—not even if it will premiere in theaters or on Disney+. The only thing fans can do is wait and see.



J.J. Abrams "let me slip into a stormtrooper uniform and play around in a scene and part of that scene is now in a TV spot and imma cry now," J.D. Dillard (left) tweeted about his cameo.



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN



HOLLYWOOD
ROYALTY,
SCREEN PRINCESS

STAR
WARS
LEGEND

PLAYING PRINCESS LEIA CAME
AT A COST, BUT CARRIE FISHER
EMBRACED THE CHARACTER AND
HAD NO REGRETS ABOUT TAKING
ON THE ROLE. BY DAN CLARENDRON

Carrie Fisher told *Entertainment Weekly* in 2015 that her kick-ass *Star Wars* character had "been amazing for girls."





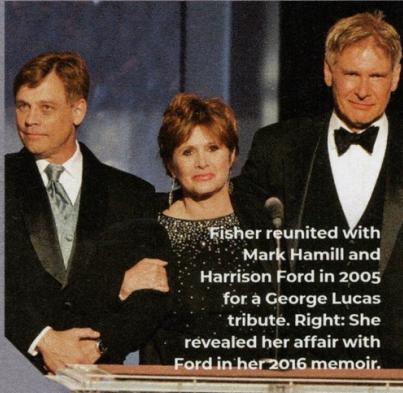
o one said saving the galaxy was easy, but playing princess turned general Leia Organa was particularly

difficult for Carrie Fisher. The actress, daughter of movie star Debbie Reynolds and singer Eddie Fisher, was just 19 when she filmed 1977's *Star Wars: A New Hope*, a film that forever linked her name and Leia's.

Even in 1980, when the sequel *The Empire Strikes Back* hit theaters, Fisher was already feeling "helpless" about her career prospects post-*Star Wars*. She wasn't worried about being typecast; she worried about being cast at all. "[*Star Wars*] hasn't translated into jobs, into other work," she told *Rolling Stone* at the time. "I'm famous in this weird way because I'm this children's cartoon character."

Fisher was also subject to body-negative scrutiny, told to lose weight for *A New Hope* and to gain weight for *The Empire Strikes Back*, as she told *Rolling Stone*. Little changed three decades later, when she said she was pressured to lose more than 35 pounds for *The Force Awakens*. "They don't want to hire all of me—only about three-quarters!" she told *Good Housekeeping* in 2015.

And then there's the matter of being a sex object at such a young age, though Fisher told NPR's *Fresh Air* in 2016 she didn't realize she was fanboy-fantasy fodder until "way later," when she started "becoming aware of it in an uncomfortable way."

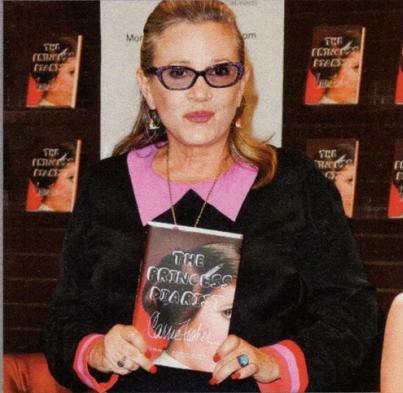


Fisher reunited with Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford in 2005 for a George Lucas tribute. Right: She revealed her affair with Ford in her 2016 memoir.

But the Emmy nominee, who was open about her diagnosis of bipolar disorder and struggle with drug addiction, had "totally embraced" her famous character by 2016. "I like Princess Leia," she told *Rolling Stone* at the time. "I like how she was feisty. I like how she killed Jabba the Hutt. That's my favorite thing she did." Fisher was so defensive of Leia, she shot down rumors that she regretted taking on the role. "I pursued it," she insisted. "I wanted it. I don't regret it."

The actress delved into her legacy as Leia—what she called her "very, very light cross to bear"—in her 2016 memoir *The Princess Diarist*. Recalling her jubilation when she heard the part was hers, she declared, "I had never been Princess Leia before, and now I would be her forever. I would never not be Princess Leia. I had no idea how profoundly true that was and how long forever was.... But I was Leia, and that was all that truly mattered. I'm Leia—I can live in a tree, but you can't take that away from me."

Indeed, Fisher was irreplaceable in the role, and when she died following a cardiac arrest in 2016 ahead of filming *The Rise of Skywalker*, director J.J. Abrams spliced unused footage from *The Force Awakens* to keep her in the final Skywalker Saga film. "It was a million intricate decisions and discussions and trials," the director told *Vanity Fair* in 2019. "I wish, of course, that she had been with us. I wish she were here now."



A Mother-Daughter Act

After Fisher's death, her daughter, Billie Lourd, helped finish Leia's story.

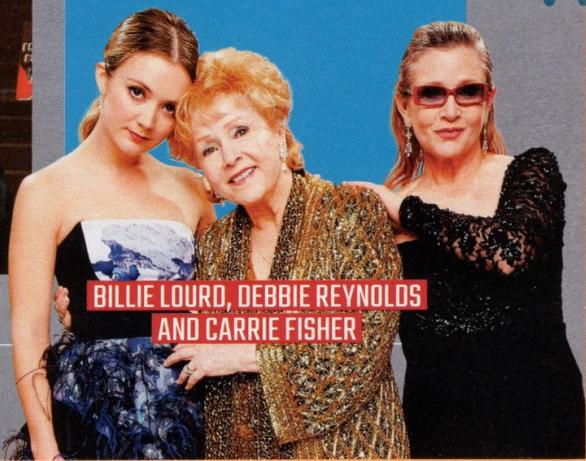


One of Carrie Fisher's scene partners in the *Star Wars* sequel trilogy was her only child, daughter Billie Lourd, who played Resistance fighter Kaydel Ko Connix (above, with Fisher). After Fisher's 2016 death, however, Lourd took on another role for *The Rise of Skywalker*, serving as a body double for a flashback scene of Leia training with Luke.

"It was a poignant thing and something that nobody took lightly, that she was willing to stand in for her mom," the film's visual effects supervisor, Patrick Tubach, told Yahoo Entertainment in 2020.

"It was an emotional thing for everybody to see her in that position."

In a behind-the-scenes documentary about the film, Lourd talked about the "incredible, painful, surreal" experience of filming a *Star Wars* movie without her mother. "All of the adjectives that you can come up with, probably, I felt," she admitted.

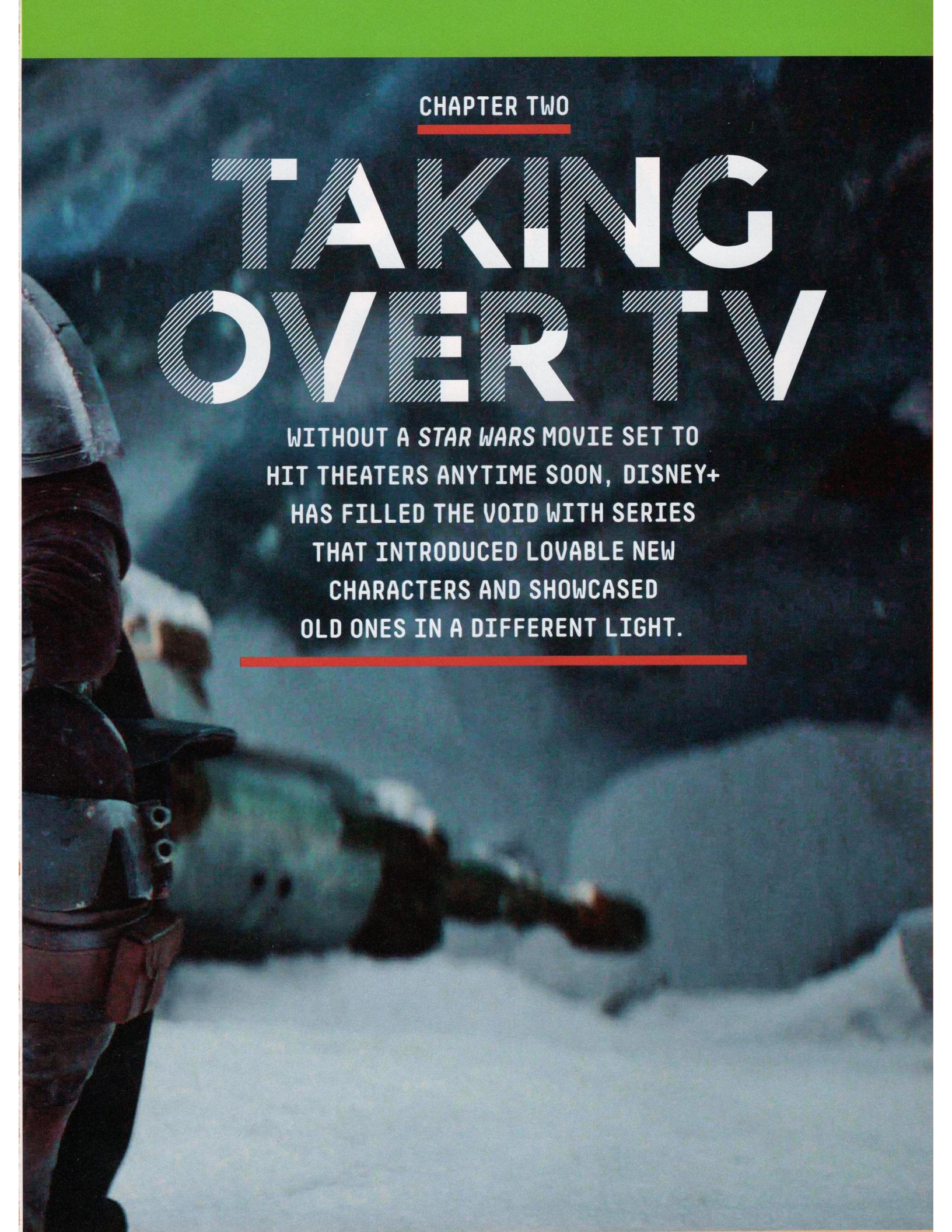


BILLIE LOURD, DEBBIE REYNOLDS AND CARRIE FISHER

A dramatic close-up from the TV show "The Mandalorian". On the right, the Mandalorian, wearing his iconic silver and black armor, stands with his back to the viewer, looking over his shoulder. He is holding a large, ornate blaster rifle. On the left, Grogu, the child Yoda-like character, is seen from behind, looking up at the Mandalorian. Grogu has green skin, large ears, and is wearing a brown tunic. The background is dark and atmospheric.

Everybody Loves Grogu

The *Mandalorian* was the first Disney+ series to make Nielsen's streaming top 10 list, in October 2020, with more than 1 billion minutes of streaming.

A blurry, dark background image of a Star Wars character's arm and hand reaching out.

CHAPTER TWO

TAKING OVER TV

WITHOUT A *STAR WARS* MOVIE SET TO HIT THEATERS ANYTIME SOON, DISNEY+ HAS FILLED THE VOID WITH SERIES THAT INTRODUCED LOVABLE NEW CHARACTERS AND SHOWCASED OLD ONES IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT.

MORE MANDO!

EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT SEASON 3 OF THE
DISNEY+ HIT *THE MANDALORIAN*. BY RYAN BRITT



The adventures of Din Djarin and Grogu are just getting started. As *The Book of Boba Fett* proved, even *Star Wars* TV shows not starring Mando and Baby Yoda can still include extended cameos from everyone's favorite space-dad-and-son combo. And, while *The Book of Boba Fett* has slightly recontextualized the future of *The Mandalorian*, the upcoming new season of the Disney+ hit is still something of a mystery.

Here's everything we know so far about Season 3 of *The Mandalorian*.

THE CAST

After *The Book of Boba Fett* finale in February 2022 reunited Din Djarin and Grogu, it's obvious actor Pedro Pascal will be back for *The Mandalorian*. And, much of the rest of the supporting cast is expected to return, too. In September 2021, Giancarlo Esposito (Moff Gideon) told *Variety*, "I think we need to see Moff to continue the story," referring to the possible return of the villain, who seemed to be left in the custody of Bo-Katan (Katee Sackhoff) at the conclusion of Season 2 in December 2021.





Unexpected Delays

While Season 3 of *The Mandalorian* started filming in the fall of 2021, its wrap date had to be extended through late March 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.





"I definitely know a lot about who she is and where she's been," Katee Sackhoff, who plays Bo-Katan, told *Slashfilm*.



Dual Roles

Carl Weathers is returning as Greef Karga and also slipping back into the director's chair for Season 3. "It's going to be fantastic!!!" he tweeted in January 2022.

Speaking to *Slashfilm* in late 2021, Sackhoff indicated that Bo-Katan's "unfinished business" with Mando could bring her back to the series. "As a fan of the show, I'm just excited to see what they come up with." At the end of Season 2, Bo-Katan was furious that Mando won the Darksaber from Moff Gideon, which meant, according to Mandalorian tradition, Din was now the ruler of all surviving members of the Mandalorian creed. Similarly, *Boba Fett* featured the return of the Armorer (Emily Swallow) and Paz Vizla (Tait Fletcher)—the two surviving members



THE ARMORER



PAZ VIZLA

of Mando's specific covert sect—so it's likely they too will be back for Season 3. Additionally, because we saw Amy Sedaris' Peli Motto on Tatooine in *The Book of Boba Fett*, she could easily pop up again on *The Mandalorian*. The *Boba Fett* finale left the story of Boba Fett and Fennec Shand wide open, meaning Temuera Morrison and Ming-Na Wen could cameo as well. As for Bill Burr's mercenary, Migs Mayfeld, making a return, when asked by ScreenRant in 2021, he teased, "Oh, I hope so."

There is at least one cast member who will return for Season 3—and in a dual role, no less. Carl Weathers, who plays Mando's underworld associate, confirmed in an October 2021 tweet: "Greef Karga will be back on Disney+." And that's not all. The *Rocky* star directed Season 2's fan-favorite episode "The Siege," and in another tweet when asked by a fan if he'd be at the helm once again, Weathers replied, "Affirmative."

THE STORY

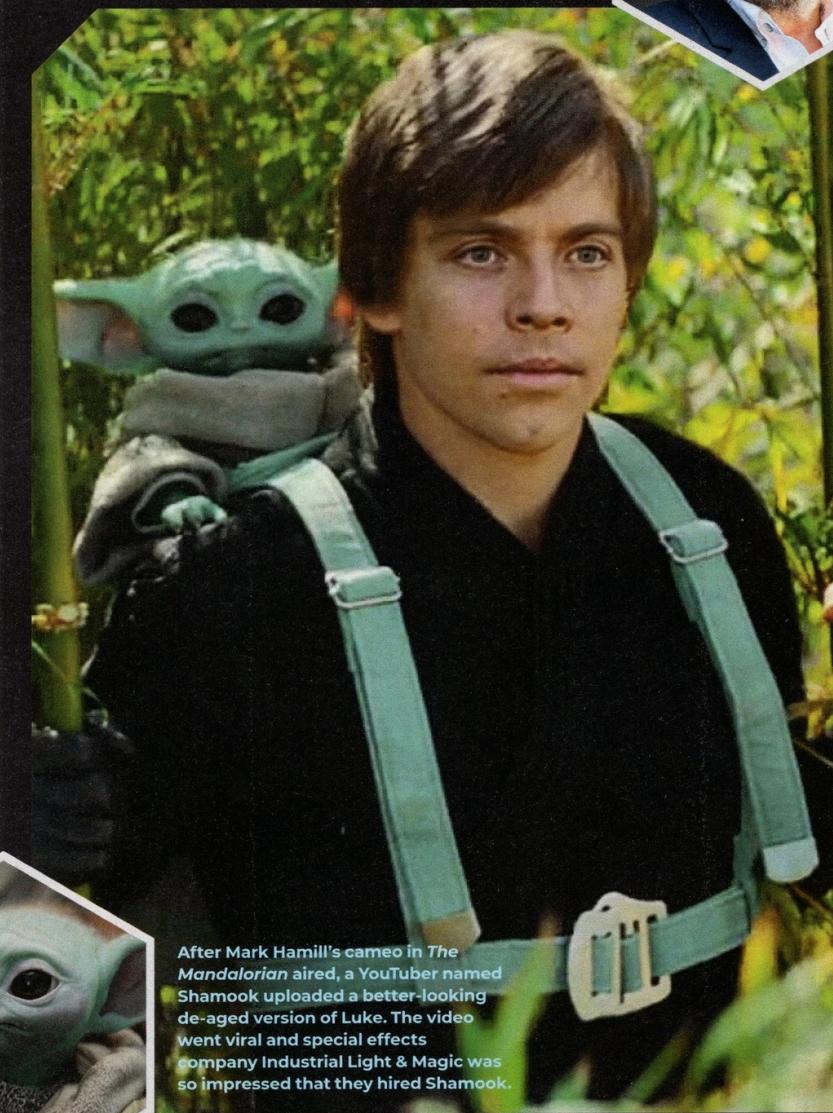
Following the events of *The Book of Boba Fett*, the question of Grogu becoming a Jedi and finding his people seems to have been resolved. By choosing Mando's Beskar armor over Yoda's lightsaber, Baby Yoda has made it clear he'd much rather be with his space dad than learn the ways of the Force. This means that one of the central questions of the first two *Mandalorian* seasons—what to do with Baby Yoda?—has basically been answered. So, what next?

Season 3 has a wealth of story material beyond questions about Grogu's future. In fact, there's almost nothing clear about Grogu's past. We still don't know why the Empire wanted samples of his blood, and the exact nature of Grogu's rescue and subsequent exile remains shrouded in mystery. Who saved him all those years ago? What happened to them? And how did he end up in that compound at the start of Season 1?

Some fans think the seeds to these answers

Will Luke Return?

Following his surprise appearance in "The Rescue"—the Season 2 finale of *The Mandalorian*—fans wondered if Luke Skywalker would become a permanent fixture in the new Disney+ *Star Wars* streaming universe. Created through CGI de-aging and deepfake tech, Mark Hamill's young Luke appeared once again in *The Book of Boba Fett*'s sixth episode, "From the Desert Comes a Stranger" (below). But by the end of the *Boba Fett* finale, Grogu left Luke to be reunited with Din Djarin. This seems to rule out Luke's return in the new season of *The Mandalorian*—but then again, nobody expected him to show up in the first place.



After Mark Hamill's cameo in *The Mandalorian* aired, a YouTuber named Shamook uploaded a better-looking de-aged version of Luke. The video went viral and special effects company Industrial Light & Magic was so impressed that they hired Shamook.

Big Bad Moff

"I think we want to know more about him," Giancarlo Esposito told *Metro* about Moff Gideon. "How does he know everything? What does he want from The Child?"



CARSON TEVA



Bill Burr (left) has played coy about returning for Season 3 as Migs Mayfeld. Executive producer Jon Favreau originally offered him the role because of his history of roasting *Star Wars* in his stand-up comedy and on his podcast.

have already been planted. In *Boba Fett*, Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) suggested that Grogu's memories could be revealed. Perhaps the motivation behind the Empire's capture of the little guy is connected to the fact that, several decades later, Emperor Palpatine was brought back to life through cloning in *The Rise of Skywalker*. Because Force-sensitive folks have midi-chlorians in their blood, it stands to reason that Moff Gideon was harvesting Grogu's blood specifically to snag those microscopic life-forms. Lending credence to this theory is the Season 2 return of Dr. Pershing (Omid Abtahi), who was established as a "cloner" for the Empire. Executive producer Dave Filoni also said on *Good Morning America* that "the Force will be strong" with Season 3.

Outside of lingering Baby Yoda mysteries, the new season will almost

“

There will be some familiar faces and there will be a lot of new faces.” PEDRO PASCAL, TO GERMAN MAGAZINE NEELIX IN FEBRUARY 2022

certainly have to explore the other big plotline from Season 2: Is Din Djarin the new ruler of all Mandalorians? And will everyone ever return to the planet Mandalore itself? Because Din possesses the Darksaber, some Mandalorians may consider him to be the true leader of their creed, which, in theory, could result in him becoming a king of some kind. But because he told the Armorer in *The Book of Boba Fett* that he'd taken off his helmet, she declared that he was no longer a Mandalorian, calling him an apostate.

Executive producer Jon Favreau hinted he'll be delving into the helmet rule. "By keeping [Mando's] helmet on all the time. It's not about the face under it, it's about the helmet," he said in *The Art of the Mandalorian: Season 2*. "Same with Boba Fett; you don't think about what's under the helmet, you think about that mysterious silhouette."

"I wanted to preserve the magic of that, or return it to that, knowing full well that we would get complex later, that there are some groups that have evolved, like Bo-Katan's group, that are dealing more with the politics of the moment," he added. "Having those two meet each other and contend with one another was a way to address that."

Wrapped up in this are the rumors that the new season will feature at least one new character who wears Mandalorian armor—perhaps another member of Bo-Katan's Nite Owls, or another covert sect entirely.

Season 3 could also explore Mando's odd relationship with what was once the Rebel Alliance. Although the Empire is his default enemy, he's often on the run from the legitimate government of this time period, the New Republic. In *Boba Fett*, we saw Mando speed away from an X-wing patrol, led by Captain Carson Teva (Paul Sun-Hyung Lee). It's easy to think of Teva as a space cop and Mando as a lawless bounty hunter, because they're both locked in a battle against the Empire, however, they're basically on the same side. Could this mean Mando will one day fight alongside

the X-wings of the New Republic? Considering he now has a starfighter that's faster than any of their ships, the answer could be a big yes.

Pascal teased the new season in an interview with German magazine *Neelix*, saying, "There is again a lot of action and a really great story."

THE RELEASE DATE

So, when will *The Mandalorian* Season 3 drop on Disney+? Before Baby Yoda and Mando can return, they'll have to wait their turn. Following the conclusion of *The Book of Boba Fett*, the next Disney+ *Star Wars* series on the slate is *Obi-Wan Kenobi*, which debuts on May 25, 2022, the 45th anniversary of the very first *Star Wars* film.

Although no *Mandalorian* crossovers are expected for this series, it should be noted that Grogu is very much alive in the time period of *Obi-Wan* and even younger than he is in *The Mandalorian*.

Baby Yoda speculation aside, *Obi-Wan* isn't the only *Star Wars* streaming series that's been in recent production. In addition to *The Mandalorian*, two upcoming series, *Ahsoka* and *Andor*, are also coming soon (see page 60). *Andor* stars Diego Luna as his *Rogue One* character, Cassian Andor, and the series is expected to drop mid-to-late 2022, meaning it could beat *The Mandalorian* to the upcoming Disney+ schedule. The first two seasons of *The Mandalorian* debuted just before Thanksgiving, which makes a November 2022 release date likely. So not only is Season 3 coming—it also seems like it's becoming a holiday tradition.

What About Gina Carano?

Although Gina Carano's character, Cara Dune, was popular in the first two seasons of *The Mandalorian*, the chances of her appearing in Season 3 are exactly zero.

On Feb. 2, 2021, the actress shared posts on Instagram in which she compared COVID-19 mask mandates to Nazi oppression. Although Carano—who'd reportedly been warned in the past about her social media accounts—subsequently deleted the posts in question, she didn't apologize. The hashtag #FireGinaCarano quickly swept Twitter. Within days, Lucasfilm issued a statement confirming Carano was "not currently employed by Lucasfilm and there are no plans for her to be in the future. Nevertheless, her social media posts denigrating people based on their cultural and religious identities are abhorrent and unacceptable."

The former MMA fighter was also dropped by her agent and publicists. Carano subsequently teamed up with conservative website dailywire.com to star in the movie *Terror on the Prairie*, a Western that's set for release this summer.





Be Quiet!

Temuera Morrison told *NME* his character, Boba Fett, talks "too much" on the show and that he tried to give some of his lines to Fennec Shand, played by Ming-Na Wen.

UNLIKELY HERO

THE BOOK OF BOBA FETT FEATURES THE BOUNTY HUNTER IN A NEW ROLE, BUT IS IT THE END OF THE REDEMPTION STORY FOR THE KNIGHT IN NOT-SO-SHINY ARMOR?

BY RYAN BRITT



panning two distinct events in the life of the titular bounty hunter, *The Book of Boba Fett* sees a previously ruthless and hard-hearted *Star Wars* character in a new light. In the classic *Star Wars* trilogy, Boba Fett's face was never seen, and he barely spoke. But all that changed after the 2002 film *Attack of the Clones*, in which we learned Boba was once the young clone of another bounty hunter named Jango Fett. After playing Jango in 2002, actor Temuera Morrison became the canonical Boba, albeit somewhat retroactively. In 2004, his voice was dubbed over original Boba voice actor Jason Wingreen in *The Empire Strikes Back*. However, it would

be another 16 years until Morrison again played the bounty hunter, in the second season of *The Mandalorian*.

The seven-episode *Book of Boba Fett* is a continuation of a post-credits scene from *The Mandalorian*, in which Boba, after nearly five years in exile, returned to Jabba the Hutt's palace and killed Bib Fortuna, the late crime lord's majordomo. "The post-credits scene set up expectations for viewers to see Boba take over Jabba the Hutt's crime empire in Mos Espa, but when the series premiered...the audience realized they were getting even more than that," wrote Screenrant. The Disney+ series details Boba's attempt to establish a new type of rulership over Jabba's old territory, referring to himself as a noble feudal lord, by using the Japanese word "daimyo." Unlike the cold-blooded contract killer from the original *Star Wars* films, the man we meet in *The Book of Boba Fett*, which premiered in December 2021, is ethical, concerned and, surprisingly, kind.

Boba's journey from anti-hero to noble crime lord is partially explained through flashbacks that dominate the first few episodes. We learn why he has evolved: After escaping the Sarlacc pit on Tatooine, he was taken in by Tusken Raiders and learned how to become one of them. Previously, films like *A New Hope* and *Attack of the Clones* established the Tusken as mindless killers—something that's changed in *Boba Fett*.

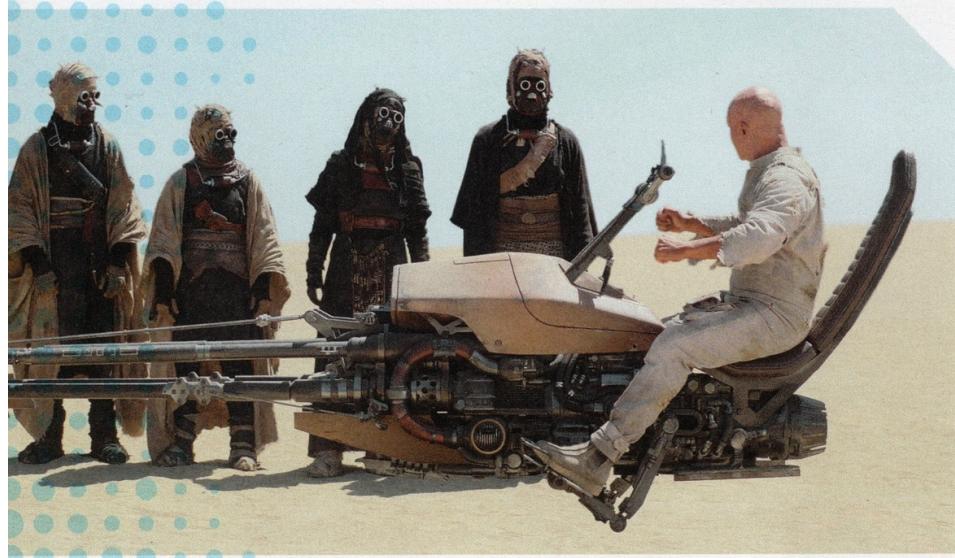




Boba's adopted tribe of Tusken met a tragic end, a fact that fueled much of the conflict in the final episode, which aired on Feb. 9, 2022. Along the way, the series planted seeds for both *The Mandalorian* Season 3 and the hotly anticipated spinoff *Ahsoka* (see page 61). In "Chapter 5: Return of the Mandalorian," Pedro Pascal appeared as the Mandalorian, while the following episode placed Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) and Ahsoka (Rosario Dawson) alongside the adorable Grogu.

The Book of Boba Fett was the brainchild of executive producers Jon Favreau and Dave Filoni, and director Robert Rodriguez (*Sin City*). While most episodes were helmed by one of the three men, fan-favorite Chapter 5 was directed by *Jurassic World* actress Bryce Dallas Howard, who previously handled two *Mandalorian* episodes.

Boba Fett also brought back the master assassin Fennec Shand (Ming-Na Wen) and revealed how she



Above, center: "Boba has never experienced a real family before," Morrison said of the Tusken Raiders. Left: The appearance of Ahsoka Tano (Rosario Dawson) with Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) hinted at a possible storyline for the Ahsoka spinoff. Right: "Machete finally made it into space," Danny Trejo captioned a pic with Morrison on Twitter.

was rescued from certain death in Season 1 of *The Mandalorian*. Other guest stars included Danny Trejo as the rancor keeper, *What We Do in the Shadows'* Matt Berry as the droid 8D8, *Strangers With Candy's* David Pasquesi as Mok Shiaz's majordomo, musician Stephen "Thundercat" Bruner as the Mod Artist and Corey Burton voicing Cad Bane, a character previously seen in the animated series *The Clone Wars* and *The Bad Batch*. *Boba Fett* also saw the return of *Mandalorian* favorites Peli Motto (Amy Sedaris) and Cobb Vanth (Timothy Olyphant).

As of presstime, there was no word about a second season for *The Book of Boba Fett*, although Wen tweeted, "I'm keeping my fingers crossed." Rodriguez teased the possibility to *The Hollywood Reporter*: "If people really love it, I'm sure they'd want to make more." (It's worth noting that *Boba Fett*'s last episode pulled in more viewers than the Season 2 finale of *The Mandalorian*.)

If our two protagonists have any say in it, they will get to leave the desert planet. "My god, I am done with sand," Morrison told *Rolling Stone*, while Wen added, "I keep asking Jon [Favreau], 'When do we get off Tatooine?'"

That said, fans should expect to see Boba and his friends again, either in *The Mandalorian* Season 3, *Ahsoka* or in flashbacks in *Obi-Wan Kenobi*, which debuts on Disney+ on May 25.



Easter Eggs

Because *The Book of Boba Fett* takes place on Tatooine, and within the time frame of *Return of the Jedi*, the series is packed to the gills with deep cuts from the entire franchise. Here are the 5 best.

Old Friends In "Chapter 2: The Tribes of Tatooine," Boba Fett visits the Tosche Station, a location Luke Skywalker references in *A New Hope*. The two humans who see Fett are Camie (Mandy Kowalski) and Fixer (Skyler Bible), characters in deleted scenes from the 1977 film.

Play It Again, Max Throughout the series, we see a blue, elephant-like alien playing the keyboard: Max Rebo, who previously was a member in the band at Jabba's palace in *Return of the Jedi*.

Boba's Beasts In "Chapter 3: The Streets of Mos Espa," Boba is gifted a rancor, and mentions that he's ridden "beasts 10 times its size." This likely references his first-ever appearance, as a cartoon in the 1978 *Star Wars Holiday Special*, in which the bounty hunter mounted a creature called Paar's ichthyodont.

So Wizard In the fifth episode, Peli Motto (Amy Sedaris) hooks up Mando (Pedro Pascal) with a new ship. It's an N-1 Naboo Starfighter, the same kind that young Anakin Skywalker (Jake Lloyd) flew in *The Phantom Menace*. After he takes a joyride, Mando says "wizard," just like Anakin's friend Kitster (Dhruv Chanchani) did in the 1999 movie.

Temple Tragedy In "Chapter 6: From the Desert Comes a Stranger," droids are shown constructing what will become Luke's Jedi Academy in the future. The design of these buildings matches flashbacks in *The Last Jedi*, in which we learn that Kylo Ren will burn everything down, leaving Luke for dead.



GETTING

THESE CARTOON SERIES HELP TO FILL IN SOME BLANKS IN THE FRANCHISE'S TIME LINE.

BY MOLLY TEMPLETON



If you're only watching live-action *Star Wars*, you're not getting the whole story. From *The Clone Wars* to *Visions*, *Rebels* to *Resistance*—and beyond—the animated *Star Wars* series are a vital part of this galaxy-spanning saga.

The story of Anakin Skywalker's downfall isn't complete without the tale of his Padawan apprentice, Ahsoka Tano, as revealed in *The*

Clone Wars (2008–2020). The found family of *Rebels* (2014–2018) plays an important role in resisting the Empire. *Visions*, an anthology series that debuted in 2021, sees *Star Wars* in a new style, as anime creators spin fresh tales. *Resistance* (2018–2020), said co-executive producer Justin Ridge, shows “a slice of life in a part of the galaxy that wasn’t about the Jedi.”

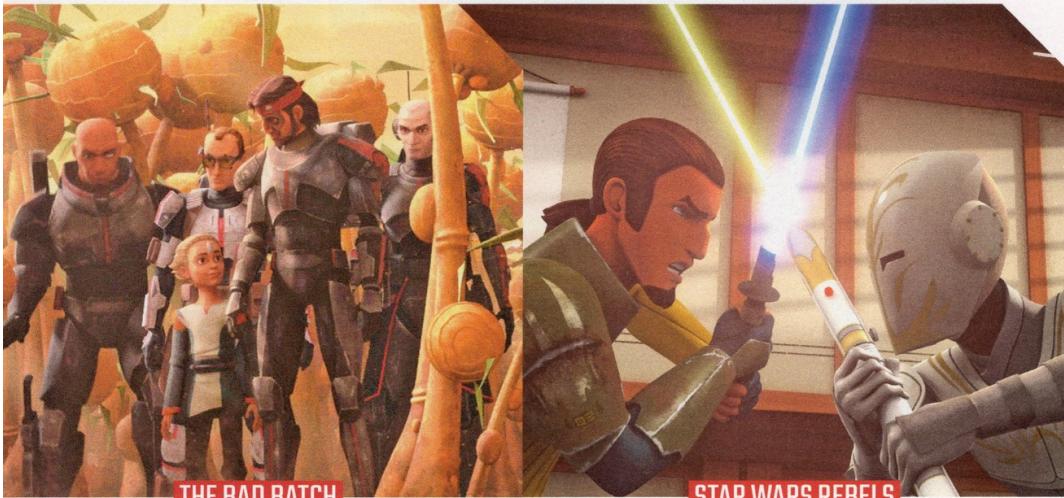
The Clone Wars, in particular, introduces characters who are central

to the franchise’s mythos. Captain Rex (Anakin’s second-in-command) returned in *Rebels*, while some *Clone Wars* characters, like Ahsoka and the bounty hunter Cad Bane, have gone on to appear in the live-action series.

But none of those characters are *The Bad Batch*. The elite group of clone soldiers, known also as Clone Force 99, were introduced in the final season of *The Clone Wars*. Each engineered to have a special skill, the squad was brought in by Commander

Cody to help end a battle with Separatist forces. In the process, they rescued fellow clone Echo—then got a show of their own.

In the first season, which premiered on Disney+ in May 2021, *Clone Force 99* meets a surprising new clone, Omega (Michelle Ang), a young girl. “Soldiers can figure things out, but what they’ve never had to deal with is a young kid. And that completely changes how they relate



THE BAD BATCH

STAR WARS REBELS

ANIMATED

STAR WARS: VISIONS



STAR WARS RESISTANCE



THE CLONE WARS

to one another and changes their perspective on the galaxy," head writer Jennifer Corbett told *starwars.com*.

The series is set in the wake of Order 66, when a chip implanted in most clones' heads directs them to kill all the Jedi. But the Bad Batch's genetic mutations let them resist the directive—and put them at odds with their former brothers-in-arms and leaders in the Empire.

Over the course of the first season, the Bad Batch encounters some familiar faces, including *The Mandalorian* and *The Book of Boba*

Fett's Fennec Shand (Ming-Na Wen), the Martez sisters from *Clone Wars* (Elizabeth Rodriguez and Brigitte Kali) and a younger version of *Rebels'* Hera Syndulla (Vanessa Marshall). But by the season's end, so much has changed. The Empire is phasing out the clones and has destroyed the cloning facility on Kamino.

"The ramifications of this attack and what the Empire has done, and what it means for the Bad Batch and for the clones, is something we're going to continue with," Corbett said of Season 2. There are other clones

out there—some resisting the Empire, and some agreeing with the ways it wields power. The Kaminoan Nala Se is now at an Imperial lab that is likely to be the site of some iffy science. And Boba Fett—the clones' genetic brother—has his own live-action series. Maybe their paths will cross, and maybe they won't; the masterminds at *Star Wars* central are keeping the upcoming season's details secret. But we won't have to wait too long to see what's in store for *Clone Force 99*, as Season 2 of *The Bad Batch* is expected later this year.

WHAT'S NEXT?

THE GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY IS SET TO EXPAND EVEN MORE WITH THESE UPCOMING DISNEY+ SERIES. BY BRYAN YOUNG



Andor

Set in the years before *Rogue One*, *Andor* follows Diego Luna's character—Cassian Andor—from that film. He is a spy in the Rebellion who sometimes goes too far in the name of good. Joining him, at some point in the series although maybe not the first season, will be his droid companion K-2SO, played by Alan Tudyk. Filmmaker and screenwriter Tony Gilroy is the creator of the show, while the cast includes Stellan Skarsgård, Adria Arjona, Fiona Shaw, Denise Gough, Kyle Soller and Genevieve O'Reilly (returning as Mon Mothma, the leader of the Rebellion). Forest Whitaker is also rumored to be reprising his *Rogue One* role as Saw Gerrera in the 12-episode series. "You'll definitely see familiar faces," Luna told Deadline in September 2021.

The show was originally set to shoot in England in 2019 but got pushed into 2020, and then back even further due to COVID-19, finally wrapping in September 2021. Long before *Andor*'s mid-to-late 2022 premiere, the Disney+ series had already been given the green light for a second season.

Skarsgård told Sweden's *Dagens Nyheter* earlier this year that the next installment will start filming in the fall.



"The experience was literally a transformation for me," Diego Luna told Deadline in September 2021 of filming the series. Insets, clockwise from top: Forest Whitaker; Genevieve O'Reilly; Adria Arjona.



Rosario Dawson went to acting school in NYC with *Ahsoka* co-star Hayden Christensen and they both appeared in the 2003 film *Shattered Glass*. Insets, from left: Lars Mikkelsen; Mary Elizabeth Winstead.

Ahsoka



Fans of the animated series *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* and *Star Wars Rebels* were shocked to see Ahsoka Tano show up in the second season of *The Mandalorian*. Ahsoka, created by George Lucas and Dave Filoni, began her life as the Jedi apprentice of Anakin Skywalker during the Clone Wars. The live-action iteration of the character was played by Rosario Dawson, who is set to star in this live-action TV series. Despite the show being set in the years after *Return of the Jedi*, one of the most surprising members of the cast, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*, is Hayden Christensen, who played Anakin in two of the *Star Wars* prequels. Mary Elizabeth Winstead has also been cast in an unknown role on the show, while Deadline reported that *The Society*'s Natasha Liu Bordizzo has been signed as a lead opposite Dawson, portraying *Star Wars*

Rebels' Mandalorian warrior Sabine Wren, and *Pacific Rim: Uprising*'s Ivanna Sakhno will play a newly created character.

Based on Ahsoka's appearance in *The Mandalorian*, and her quest to find Grand Admiral Thrawn, it is expected that Lars Mikkelsen, the actor who provided the voice for Thrawn on *Star Wars Rebels*, will be back to play the character in live-action.

Executive producer Filoni, who is also writing the show, told *Empire* in November 2021 that it's been "thrilling" to work on the scripts. "I thought of this adventure for Ahsoka for a long time, and it's interesting to see how it's evolved," he added.

The series reportedly began filming in early 2022 and is likely to appear on Disney+ sometime in 2023.

Obi-Wan Kenobi

Originally developed as a feature film, director Deborah Chow is bringing us a limited series about Anakin Skywalker's Jedi Master.

Reprising the title role of Obi-Wan Kenobi is Ewan McGregor, who played the character in all three *Star Wars* prequels. The story takes place about a decade after the events of *Revenge of the Sith*, and, surprisingly, brings back Hayden Christensen in the role of Darth Vader/Anakin Skywalker. "This will be the rematch of the century," said Lucasfilm's president, Kathleen Kennedy.

The rest of the cast includes Joel Edgerton and Bonnie Piesse, who played Luke Skywalker's aunt and uncle, Owen and Beru Lars, in *Attack of the Clones* and *Revenge of the Sith*. Other actors cast in undisclosed roles include Moses Ingram, Kumail Nanjiani, Indira Varma, Rupert Friend, O'Shea Jackson Jr., Sung Kang, Simone Kessell and Benny Safdie.

According to early sizzle reels, McGregor promised that Obi-Wan and Darth Vader "have another swing" at each other with their lightsabers. And along with Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru, we'll also see Luke as a boy of 8 to 10 years old. There are also reports that a young Leia will be included in the story.

Obi-Wan Kenobi is set to premiere on Disney+ on May 25, 2022—the 45th anniversary of the release of *A New Hope*.



Above: Hayden Christensen and Ewan McGregor. Insets, clockwise from top left: Kumail Nanjiani; the teaser poster shows Obi-Wan walking in Tatooine's Dune Sea; Indira Varma; Rupert Friend.

Rangers of the New Republic

At the Disney Investor Day on Dec. 10, 2020, Lucasfilm's Kathleen Kennedy announced *Rangers of the New Republic* as a new television show, spinning out of *The Mandalorian*. Very little was said about the series but it was expected that it would follow Cara Dune, Gina Carano's character from *The Mandalorian*, as she stepped into her new role as a marshal of the New Republic. But Carano got into hot water for making insensitive comments on social media. She was pulled off *The Mandalorian* and a Lucasfilm spokesperson said in February 2021 that the company would not be working with her "in the future."

While some fans speculated her role could be recast, other rumors suggested the series might follow Carson Teva, the New Republic pilot we saw in *The Mandalorian* and *The Book of Boba Fett*, played by Paul Sun-Hyung Lee.

In an interview with *Empire* magazine in November 2021, Kennedy seemed to confirm that the series had been canceled. "We'd never written any scripts or anything on that. Some of that will figure into future episodes, I'm sure, of the next iteration of *The Mandalorian*."

As of now, it looks like *Rangers of the New Republic* has been shelved, but perhaps its characters will pop up elsewhere.



Kim's Convenience star Paul Sun-Hyung Lee is a huge fan of the franchise. "I have over eight *Star Wars* cosplays at home!" he told *Obi-Wan Kenobi* director Deborah Chow before he was cast. Inset: Gina Carano.

Welcome to the Dark Side

A mystery-thriller, *The Acolyte* follows the adherents of the dark side, a contrast to everything we've seen in the era.



The Acolyte

In January 2021, Lucasfilm launched an all-new era of *Star Wars* with *The High Republic*, a multimedia project spanning comics, novels and audio plays. Set a few hundred years before the end of the Jedi, it shows the Republic in its heyday and the Jedi in an all new light. *The Acolyte* is a television series that takes place near the end of this era and delves into the dark side.

Leslye Headland (inset, below), who created and wrote the Netflix drama *Russian Doll*, has been tapped to take the reins of *The Acolyte*. The show will revolve around a female cast and, according to Headland, is very inspired by *The Phantom Menace*. She told *The Wrap* in June 2021, "What happened to lead up to [Phantom Menace]? That's kind of where my *Star Wars* fan brain went. 'How did we get here? And why are the Jedi like this? When they are in power, why are they acting this way?.... I just think for me, my brain has always buzzed around that area and wondered what's going on here—or what has been going on here?'"

Variety reported in December 2021 that Amanda Stenberg (*The Hate U Give*, left) was in talks to join the Disney+ show, which is set to start filming overseas in the summer of 2022.

Lando

Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy announced *Lando* in December 2020, saying, "Lando Calrissian is the galaxy's smoothest, most notorious scoundrel, and he'll return in a brand-new event series for Disney+. Justin Simien, creator of the critically acclaimed and hugely popular *Dear White People*, is developing the story with us now."

She described the writer and director as a massive *Star Wars* fan and said the tone of the series would have an "irresistible swagger."

Donald Glover, who played Lando in 2018's *Solo*, is reportedly set to reprise his role in the series. There is also buzz among fans that Alden Ehrenreich—the younger Han Solo from the origin story—will cross paths with Lando once again, but this early in the game, there are very few details about *Lando*. With the project still in active development, any rumors of what the plot could be are liable to change.

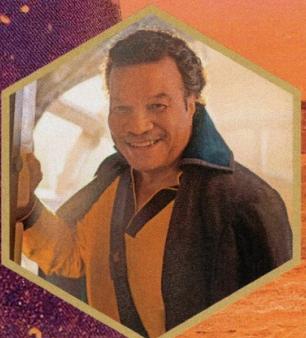
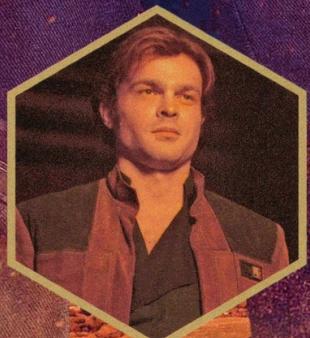
There has also been speculation that *Star Wars'* original Lando, Billy Dee Williams, could pop up in the new series, perhaps as he looks back on his adventures. When asked in 2019 if *The Rise of Skywalker* concluded Lando's story, Williams told Fandango's Erik Davis, "I hesitate to say 'concludes.' Let me put it that way."

As of March 2022, there is no timetable for *Lando*'s production schedule or release date, but fans can expect it to be a major Disney+ event miniseries.

"A Lando show makes so much sense; give that man his own show!" Emilia Clarke, Donald Glover's *Solo* co-star, said when asked about the new series. Insets, from left: Alden Ehrenreich; Billy Dee Williams.

A Returning Villain?

After news broke of the *Lando* spinoff, possibly starring Donald Glover (left), speculation swirled that Darth Maul could make an appearance.





Threepio's Protector

Anthony Daniels, who has portrayed and voiced C-3PO since 1977's *A New Hope*, told Collider in 2020: "I'm kind of the guardian of who he is."

Another High Republic Show?

The Acolyte might not be the only upcoming Disney+ series set in the era of the High Republic. Cinelinx's Jordan Maisen, who has a track record of being in the know when it comes to *Star Wars*, revealed in February 2022 that there is a new show in development described by sources as "*Stranger Things* in space." For those who haven't kept up with the High Republic era, it takes place a couple of hundred years prior to *The Phantom Menace* and many of the main characters are Jedi Padawans. A High Republic series with a young cast revolving around the Jedi and the Nihil makes perfect sense. The Nihil, the main adversary in this time period, includes a number of adolescent characters, including one who would work well on a series: Vernenstra Rwoh (right). Introduced in 2021's High Republic novel *Light of the Jedi*, she's a green-skinned Mirialan who, at 16, was one of the youngest Padawans elevated to the rank of Jedi Knight.

Following Cinelinx's news, multiple outlets reported that a *Star Wars* series with the working title of *Grammar Rodeo* will start filming in Manhattan Beach, California, around June 2022. Casting for a young female between the ages of 10 and 12 is reportedly underway.

A Droid Story

Very little is known about this animated film coming to Disney+ from Lucasfilm Animation and special effects company Industrial Light & Magic. "As Lucasfilm continues to develop new stories," the official announcement read, "the intersection of animation and visual effects offers new opportunities for us to explore. [A Droid Story's] epic journey will introduce us to a new hero guided by our most iconic duo on a secret mission known only to them. What could possibly go wrong?"

The movie will follow a brand-new droid alongside fan favorites R2-D2 and C-3PO. Anthony Daniels, who has provided the voice for C-3PO in just about every iteration of *Star Wars* since he first played the character in 1977, shared a photo of himself on Instagram at the end of January 2022 wearing a motion-capture suit (inset, top left) and tagged it #iamc3po and #starwars, so it's a safe bet to guess he will appear in the project.

Much like *Lando*, there hasn't yet been more details on the production of *A Droid Story*. Speculation has centered around an early 2023 release date for Disney+, so keep an eye out for it!



READ ALL ABOUT IT

HERE ARE 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE AS IT EXISTS IN BOOKS AND COMICS. BY MOLLY TEMPLETON

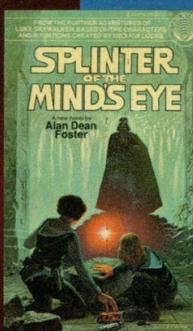


tar Wars is more than just movies and TV shows. For decades, this epic story has spanned novels, comics, young adult books, kids' books, even cookbooks. The franchise's literary universe is broad and rich—and here are a few things you'll find there.

The Canon Resets

In 2014, what had been the *Star Wars* Expanded Universe—novels, games, comics and more—became “Legends.”

These stories were no longer canon, while the first six *Star Wars* films and *The Clone Wars* were (making their stories part of the official history). The change meant future storytellers must run everything by the Lucasfilm Story Group, for continuity. But the Expanded Universe still exists: Since 2021, Del Rey has republished more than a dozen novels in the Essential Legends Collection.



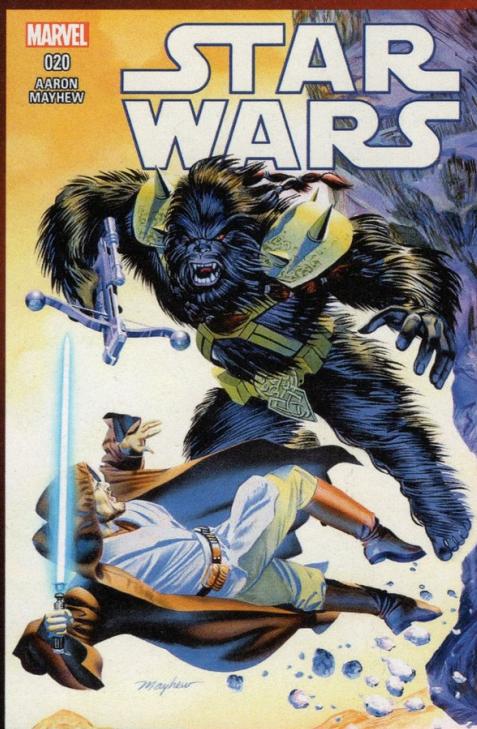
Legend and Canon

Timothy Zahn's '90s *Thrawn Trilogy* of novels is widely admired—but no longer canon. Grand Admiral Thrawn, however, still is. He made his first screen appearance in *Star Wars Rebels* (voiced by Lars Mikkelsen), and Zahn returned to the character with 2017's *Thrawn*.



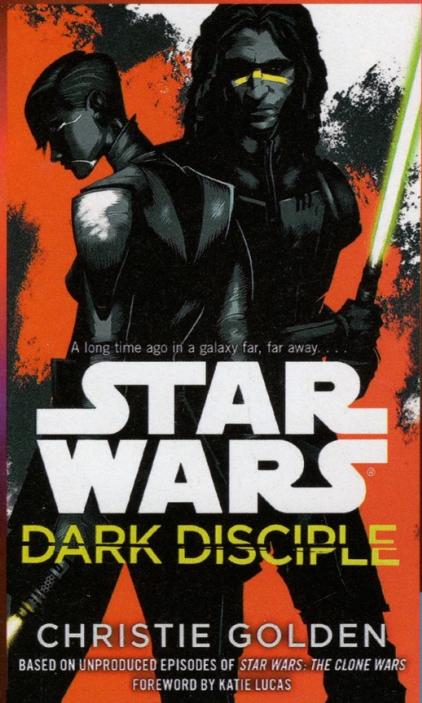
Black Krrsantan

The imposing Wookiee from *The Book of Boba Fett* first appeared in Kieron Gillen and Salvador Larroca's *Darth Vader* 1 in 2015. (Gillen gave the character the working name of “Newbacca” in his first draft.) Black Krrsantan's comics history includes time spent working with Doctor Aphra—leading some fans to hope that she too might appear in a live-action series.



Doctor Aphra

A fast-talking tech genius who has crossed paths with many major series characters, she's "endlessly inventive and unpredictable, has questionable morals, and is the only *Star Wars* character to take the comic book galaxy by storm without ever being seen on a screen," Catrina Dennis wrote on starwars.com.

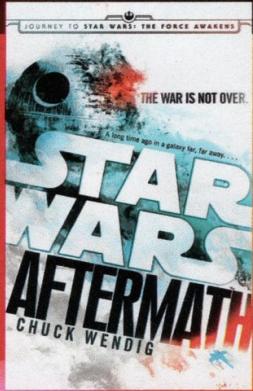


More Clone Wars

If you can't get enough *Clone Wars*, pick up Christie Golden's *Dark Disciple*. Based on eight unproduced scripts for the TV show, the 2015 novel focuses on former Sith acolyte Asajj Ventress and Jedi Quinlan Vos as they team up to take down Count Dooku.

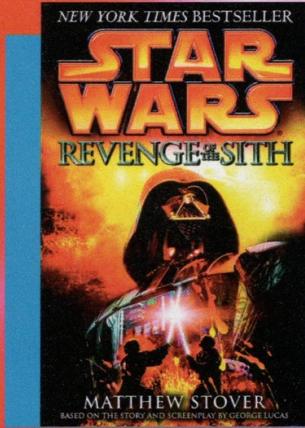
Out of the Aftermath

Like Black Krrsantan, Timothy Olyphant's *Mandalorian* character, Cobb Vanth, started out on the page—in Chuck Wendig's 2015 novel *Aftermath*, which begins soon after the destruction of the second Death Star and is the first in the *Aftermath Trilogy*.



From Screen to Page

The *Star Wars* novelizations are often full of extra scenes and peeks into side stories. Sometimes they're even good enough to rival the movies: Emmet Asher-Perrin at tor.com wrote that Matthew Stover's *Revenge of the Sith* "is a perfect self-encompassing tale that emotionally invests you in its tragedy with every step it takes."



Little Stars

From Little Golden Books to YA novels, there's a *Star Wars* tale for any age, whether you want to explore the High Republic, discover when Ahsoka made those white lightsabers (in E.K. Johnston's *Ahsoka*) or fly with the Resistance (in Elizabeth Wein's *Cobalt Squadron*).



The High Republic

Spanning books and comics, this new era of *Star Wars* storytelling is set 200 years before *The Phantom Menace*, when the Galactic Empire and the Jedi were at the height of their power, and includes books by Justina Ireland, Claudia Gray and Daniel José Older. (See page 60 for info about upcoming shows.)



Truly Legendary

The Legends stories are full of epic adventures—and some odd choices. Zombie stormtroopers? Palpatine's three-eyed son? Clone Luuke (yes, with two u's)? Space centaurs? The Legends galaxy is big enough to hold all of them and more.





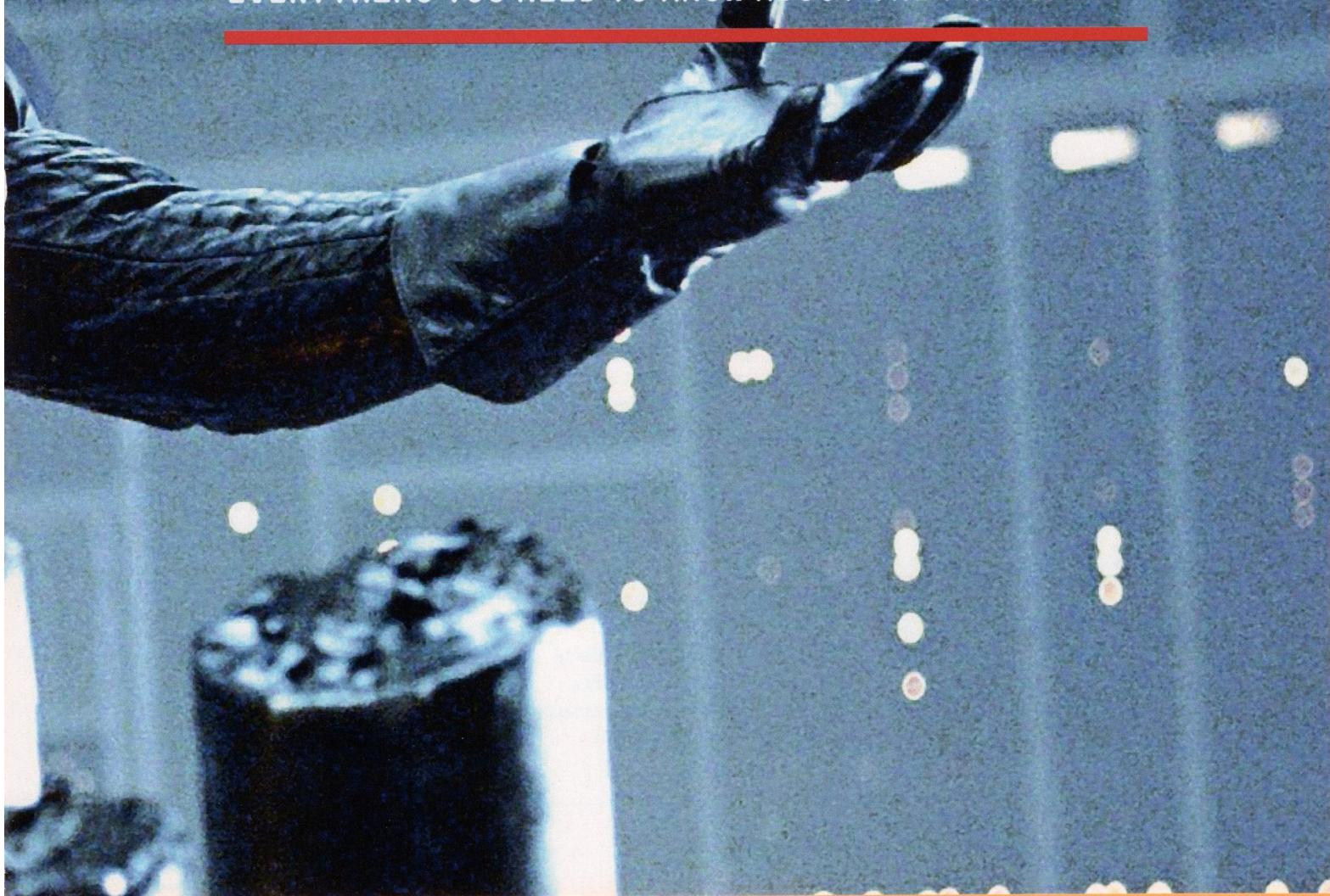
Dreaming Up Darth's Look

Costume designer John Mollo took inspiration from Ralph McQuarrie's concept art, along with a gas mask, Nazi helmet and motorcycle leathers.

CHAPTER THREE

THE STAR WARS: UNIVERSE

FROM SPECIAL EFFECTS TO SCENE-STEALERS, HERE'S
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FRANCHISE.





**IN ORDER TO GET
THE OUTER SPACE
LOOK HE WANTED
FOR THE FIRST
FILM, GEORGE
LUCAS CREATED A
NEW FX COMPANY—
INDUSTRIAL LIGHT
& MAGIC.** BY BRYAN YOUNG



The special effects required for *Star Wars* in the mid-1970s simply did not exist. In order to pull off the breathtaking space battles and catch the audience completely and instantly off guard, "I had to start a company from scratch," George Lucas told *USA Today* in 2015. FX company Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) was born—and began creating new ways of capturing these images. One of the most radical advances came from special effects pioneer John Dykstra, who built a computer-controlled motion camera system. The camera could film

spaceships against a blue screen and they could be composited together with other elements in order to create the *Star Wars* we all know and love. But back then, compositing wasn't something that could be done with a computer. They had to use a machine to rephotograph all of the separate effects onto one piece of film.

Over the years, ILM refined those techniques. They were able to take what they learned on *Star Wars* and create systems that allowed them to pull off the sequences of *The Empire Strikes Back* in 1980. No one had ever tried compositing film on white, snowy backgrounds with live action elements

and stop-motion additions like the Imperial walkers. They took things to the next level with 1983's *Return of the Jedi*, building the most complicated space battle ever recorded on film at the time as the rebels fought to destroy the second Death Star. But the most complicated sequence might have been the speeder bike chase on the forest moon of Endor. Live-action backgrounds in California's redwood forest were filmed extremely slowly to give the appearance of great speed, and then played against the live-action elements of the actors (or at times puppets) on the speeder bikes.

Star Wars always helped push the envelope, though. By the time *The Phantom Menace* was made in 1999, ILM created more physical visual effects shots than the first three *Star Wars* films combined.

ILM has become the premier visual effects studio in the world, thanks to the advances they made with *Star Wars*. The company's wizards went on to bring to life classics for other filmmakers, ranging from *Jurassic Park* (1993) to most of the movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.



How the Sounds Were Made

Darth Vader's Breathing

In early mixes, Darth Vader sounded like a walking emergency room with lots of beeps. Finding it too distracting, sound designer Ben Burtt went to a local scuba shop and recorded the noise as he breathed into the regulator of an underwater apparatus. This simple recording is what made Vader's debut so iconic.



R2-D2's Voice

R2-D2 was one of the most challenging voices to create. A breakthrough came when Burtt and George Lucas realized that babies can express emotion without saying a word. The babies Burtt tried recording didn't cooperate so he made the noises himself and combined them with notes from his synthesizer.



Chewbacca's Growls

In 1975, Lucas suggested to Burtt that bears would be a good place to start developing the voice of Chewbacca. He spent a day recording a cinnamon bear named Pooh, but it needed something additional. Petula the walrus at Marineland of the Pacific rounded out the sound.



The Swish of Lightsabers

Burtt started with the hum of an old film projector but he needed more. He stumbled onto that second piece by accident; when one of his microphones with a bad wire began picking up interference from a television. To get a more active sound, he played it on a TV and then rerecorded it as he moved around a microphone like it was a lightsaber itself.



**Hitting the Right Note**

The original script didn't have a band in the cantina.

George Lucas later decided to introduce an orchestra to add energy to the scene.

CREATING THE ALIENS

WHETHER IT'S A MINIATURE OR A MASSIVE BEAST THAT TAKES SIX PEOPLE TO OPERATE, THE FRANCHISE'S CRITTERS ARE PURE MOVIE MAGIC.

BY BRYAN YOUNG



The team working on the cantina scene didn't have a lot of time, and in some cases used masks and suits from other movies and TV shows.



One thing that always made *Star Wars* stand out was the variety of creatures in the universe. To accomplish

such diversity, George Lucas and his team had to use every trick in the book. The director turned to veteran makeup artist Stuart Freeborn to create the original aliens and the job got bigger and bigger, involving more people and even Industrial Light & Magic (ILM).

Regardless of the technician or artist behind it, every alien in *Star Wars* was a special feat. Banthas, the mounts ridden by the Tusken Raiders, were portrayed by an Asian elephant named Mardji wearing a head mask made of chicken wire sprayed with foam while her body was covered in palm fronds. The dewbacks,

the lizard-like mounts of the stormtroopers, were a puppet built over a stuffed rhinoceros. Sometimes the aesthetic presented safety challenges. The actors behind the cantina band could barely breathe in their masks and they started passing out on set. Producer Gary Kurtz saved the day—and the performers—by making new air holes with a box cutter.

One of the most intricate beasts ever created for a *Star Wars* movie was Jabba the Hutt. The massive puppet was built by the creature shop at ILM and shipped to England for filming. Weighing about 2,000 pounds, it was the largest ever made for a film and took six crew members to operate. Two people were in the head to operate Jabba's arms, mouth and neck. Another person sat below Jabba, working a bellows to create the effect of his breathing and make smoke for Jabba's pipe. Another performer operated the Hutt's tail. Two more operators controlled Jabba's eyes by remote control.

Other creatures, such as the tauntauns—the mounts ridden by the Rebels on Hoth—and the rancor, were brought to life with a combination of life-size puppets and miniatures.



Clockwise from top left: Jabba the Hutt; the elephant in the bantha costume kept shrugging off her outfit; the tauntaun model had gas tubes running through its mouth so that its breath would be visible in the cold; the rancor. Center: *Empire Strikes Back* director Irvin Kershner saddled up.

Better Than a Multi-Tool!

As a utilitarian astromech droid, R2-D2 is full of useful gadgets and tricks. His dome hides all manner of tools, and here are some of his best:

Buzz Saw Used in *Return of the Jedi* to free the heroes from the Ewok net trap .

Rocket Boosters Hidden in his legs, these jets or thrusters came in handy in *Attack of the Clones* and *Revenge of the Sith*

Laser Alarm System

Employed in *Attack of the Clones* to protect Padmé Amidala

Scomp Link Utilized in most of the films to open doors and interact with any computers

Electro-Shock Prod

Perfect for smiting pesky Ewoks

Fire Extinguisher Came in handy when rescuing the Millennium Falcon in *A New Hope*

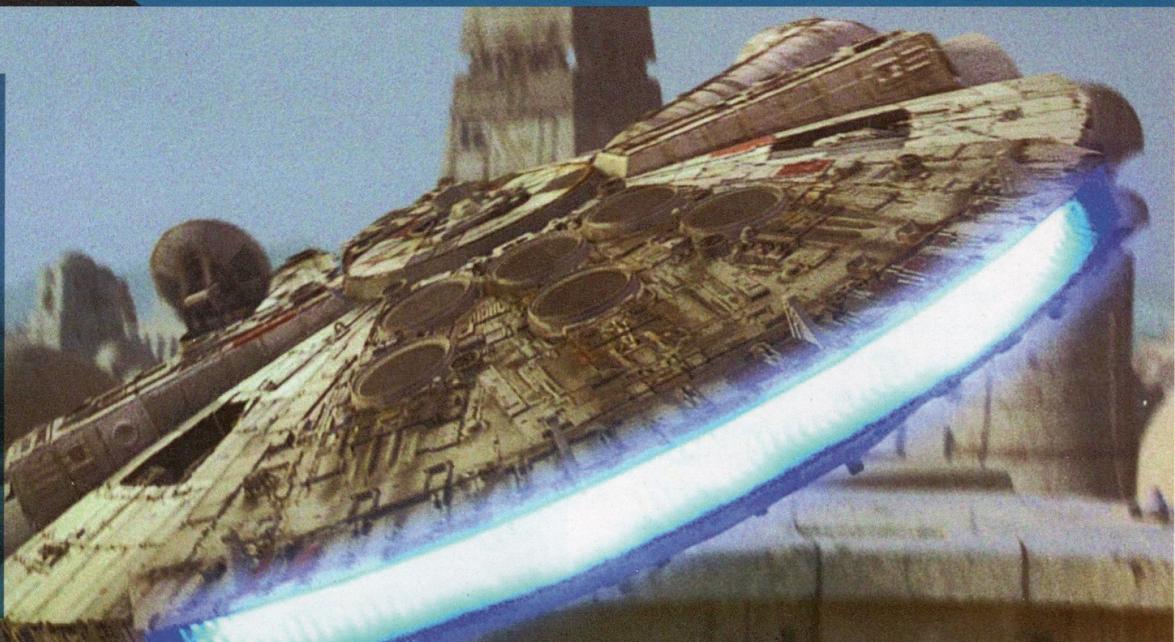
Holographic Projector Located below his radar eye and to the left of his glowing processor state indicator, the holoprojector (there is also one on top of his dome) can be used to repeat messages (*A New Hope*) or plan battles (*The Phantom Menace*)

Grabbing Arm Artoo used this to take that food from Yoda by force in *The Empire Strikes Back*



THE MILLENNIUM FALCON

The fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy can go 0.5 past light speed and made the Kessel Run in less than 12 parsecs. It's had many owners over the years, but the two most notable would be Han Solo and Lando Calrissian. Han won it from Lando in a game of sabacc, as seen in 2018's *Solo*.



FLYING HIGH

THE GALAXY IS FULL OF SPACESHIPS OF ALL SHAPES,
SIZES AND LETHAL CAPABILITIES.

BY BRYAN YOUNG



Eight-years away from flying saucers, the ships of *Star Wars* are as diverse as they are epic—and the most iconic

is the *Millennium Falcon*. "I wanted something really off the wall," director George Lucas said of the craft he dubbed "the Flying Hamburger." When model makers created miniatures for filming, they made the exteriors by gluing on plastic components (called "greeblies") taken from military tank and race car kits. By the sequel, *Star Wars* was so well merchandised, they sometimes used commercially available model kits of *Star Wars* ships in future films.

X-WINGS

This craft might be one of the most versatile fighters in the Rebel fleet. X-wings were responsible for the destruction of both Death Stars.

Y-WINGS

Though they were relics from the Clone Wars and scheduled to be decommissioned, these ancient, heavy bombers were key to the Rebel attack against the first Death Star.



TIE FIGHTERS

With no shields or hyperdrives, TIE Fighters make pilots feel expendable in the Empire, but they are some of the fastest and most maneuverable ships in the galaxy. TIE stands for twin ion engines, which make that unmistakable sound.

DARTH VADER'S TIE FIGHTER

At the Battle of Yavin, Darth Vader piloted an experimental prototype of a new kind of TIE Fighter. This one had sleeker wings and a hyperdrive system.

IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYERS

These massive capital ships provide the real might for the Empire in the galaxy. Vader eventually graduated to command a Super Star Destroyer in *The Empire Strikes Back*.

The Death Star

Conceived before the Clone Wars, the Death Star was meant to be the Empire's super weapon. Designed by the Geonosians, the Sith Lord Count Dooku brought the plans for the station back to his master, Darth Sidious. Sidious, as Supreme Chancellor Sheev Palpatine of the Republic, allowed work on the Death Star to begin before the Clone Wars had even concluded.

The ambitious engineer in charge of the project was Orson Krennic, who assembled a team to make the Death Star's super laser a reality. It was Galen Erso, the scientist behind the laser, who installed a flaw in the Death Star's system and notified the Rebels. His

daughter, Jyn Erso, was able to transmit the plans to the Rebel Alliance and they used them to identify the weakness in the system.

With nothing more than a fleet of single-pilot fighters, the Rebel Alliance launched an attack against a station the size of a small moon (more than 99 miles in diameter and crewed by 1.7 million military personnel) that had already destroyed one planet.

Hope was nearly lost, but Luke Skywalker (with help from the Force) made the shot that initiated the chain reaction that blew up the first, dreaded Death Star.

The Empire wasted no time getting to work building a second.

DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM CENTURIES OF HISTORY, COSTUME DESIGNERS CREATED ICONIC LOOKS FOR THEIR CHARACTERS.

BY BRYAN YOUNG



Costume designer John Mollo won an Oscar in 1978 for his

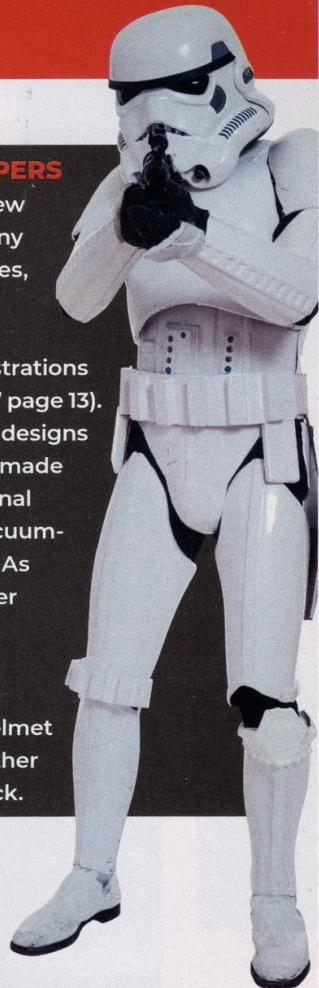
groundbreaking work on the first film's wardrobe—and those following in his footsteps have stuck close to his vision.

DRESSED TO



STORMTROOPERS

Mollo and his crew constructed many of these costumes, which were based on Ralph McQuarrie's illustrations (see "Iconic Art," page 13). They carved the designs out of clay, then made the molds and final pieces out of vacuum-formed plastics. As for the TIE Fighter pilot helmet, it was just a Rebel pilot helmet and stormtrooper helmet smooshed together and painted black.



DARTH VADER

The look of the Dark Lord of Sith began as a series of sketches from concept artist McQuarrie. For the first film, Mollo was given just under \$1,200 to make it real. The design is inspired by a blend of samurai armor and a German military helmet with flourishes from the modern space aesthetic of *Star Wars* and other historical influences.



LEIA THE HUTTSLAYER

Designed by Nilo Rodis-Jamero, Leia's bikini costume was a controversial choice, but made a certain story sense, given the princess' capture by Jabba the Hutt. She showed the crime lord why no one should mess with her, though, choking him to death with the chains he bound her in.



DARTH MAUL

For the villain in *The Phantom Menace*, George Lucas asked artist Iain McCaig to draw the scariest thing he knew. However, it was just too much. The second-scariest thing McCaig drew turned out to be Darth Maul.



LANDO'S CAPES

"There are powerful characters in *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, so capes project power," said the film's costume designer Dave Crossman. Lando Calrissian wears them with swagger and style.

QUEEN AMIDALA

Costume designer Trisha Biggar and concept artist McCaig designed Padmé Amidala's incredible royal wardrobe, drawing their inspiration from every corner of the globe. The Naboo monarch's red-and-gold throne room gown borrows from traditional Chinese regal attire and Korean and Mongolian wedding gowns.



The Weapons

Blasters Most of the blasters in the original *Star Wars* film were converted from actual weapons. Han Solo's pistol started life as a Mauser C96, an automatic gun used in both World Wars. The stormtroopers' blaster rifle was modified from a Sterling submachine gun carried by the armed forces of the United Kingdom.

Lightsabers To create the lightsaber handles, prop designers found inspiration in old camera equipment. Old flash handles provided the bones: a Graflex for Luke Skywalker and an MPP Microflash for Darth Vader.

Mandalorian Wrist Gauntlets

Gauntlets Boba Fett was the first to wear Mandalorian armor in the *Star Wars* films and his wrist rockets and gauntlets were odds and ends (like the keypad of a Casio MQ-1 calculator) attached to vacuum-formed plastic that was then painted.





THE MOVIES HAVE BEEN FILMED
ACROSS SIX CONTINENTS, WITH
REMNANTS OF MANY MEMORABLE SETS
STILL STANDING TODAY. BY BRYAN YOUNG

LOCATION LOCATION

LOCATION



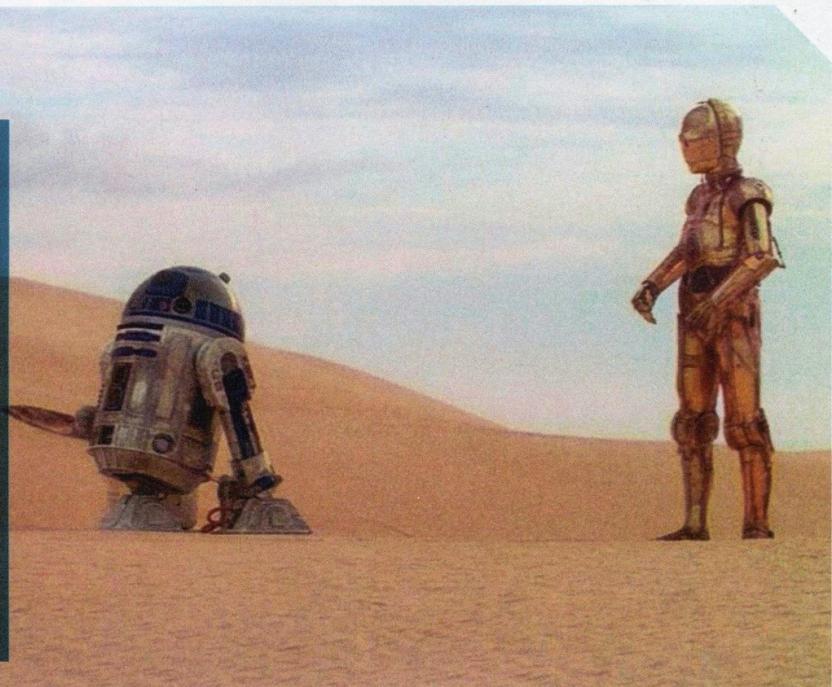
or more than 45 years, *Star Wars* has been an international affair. The very first movie, which had a modest \$11 million budget, was shot on location in a number of different places, with the bulk of the interior scenes filmed at Elstree Studios in the U.K.

TUNISIA

The majority of sequences of Tatooine were filmed in the African nation of Tunisia. The most iconic location might be the homestead where Luke Skywalker grew up, as it featured prominently in *A New Hope*, *Attack of the Clones*, *Revenge of the Sith* and *The Rise of Skywalker*. The actual homestead is the Hotel Sidi Driss in Matmata. It's a traditional Berber structure sunken into the Earth and you can still spend a night there. The city of Ajim stands in for Mos Eisley spaceport. The exterior of the original cantina is also there, while a mosque in the town served as the exterior of Obi-Wan Kenobi's hovel.

DEATH VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

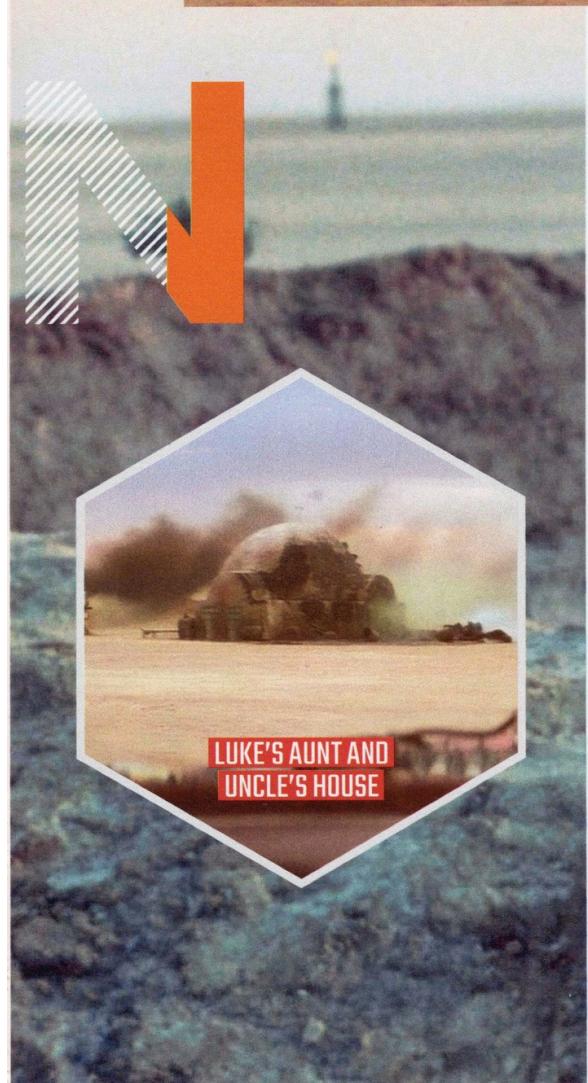
Though much of Tatooine was filmed in Tunisia, Death Valley is where R2-D2 and C-3PO crash-landed on the planet and also the filming location for scenes featuring the Jawas abducting the droids. The national park has also been featured in *The Mandalorian*, although Industrial Light & Magic's StageCraft technology allowed the actors to perform in a studio against a projection of the location, rather than sweating it out in the desert.



LUKE'S AUNT AND
UNCLE'S HOUSE

TIKAL NATIONAL PARK, GUATEMALA

The Massassi temples of the Rebel base on Yavin 4 found their real-life home in Central America. The Mayan ruins and stone temples can be seen in various shots as the X-wings are leaving for their attack on the Death Star. The character of Poe Dameron in the *Star Wars* sequel trilogy comes from the planet Yavin 4. As it turns out, actor Oscar Isaac is a native of Guatemala and asked if his character could be from the planet that was filmed there. Lucasfilm made it so.

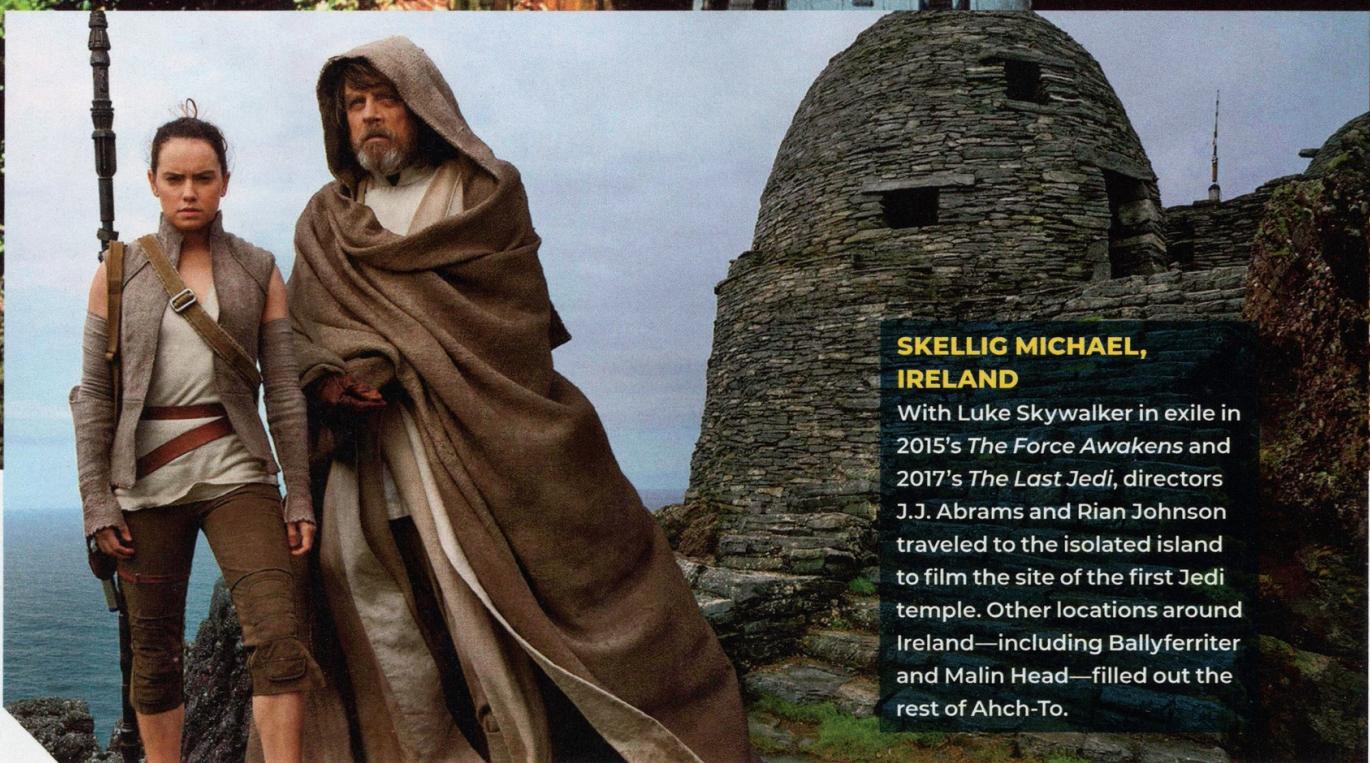




REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS, CALIFORNIA

Return of the Jedi found majesty among the tallest and largest trees in the world, with the redwood forest standing in for the Forest Moon of Endor.

Chewbacca actor Peter Mayhew was warned to not walk off the set while in costume, for fear of hunters shooting him.



SKELLY MICHAEL, IRELAND

With Luke Skywalker in exile in 2015's *The Force Awakens* and 2017's *The Last Jedi*, directors J.J. Abrams and Rian Johnson traveled to the isolated island to film the site of the first Jedi temple. Other locations around Ireland—including Ballyferriter and Malin Head—filled out the rest of Ahch-To.

ROYAL PALACE OF CASERTA, ITALY

The 18th-century residence served as the Naboo royal palace where Queen Amidala ruled in 1999's *The Phantom Menace*. Digital effects were used to remove some of the more aging aspects of the royal residence, which were replaced with film-appropriate fixtures. The palace was featured again in 2002's *Attack of the Clones*.



FINSE, NORWAY

The Empire Strikes Back brought the entire production to frigid northern Europe in 1979 to film exterior shots of the ice planet Hoth. It was so cold, the crew sometimes sent Mark Hamill out into the snow and simply filmed him from inside the hotel to avoid camera malfunctions (celluloid film snaps in frigid temperatures).



MALDIVES

When filmmakers were looking for a unique location to film the daring heist of the Death Star plans in 2016's *Rogue One*, they found the beaches in Maldives, an island nation 400 miles southwest of Sri Lanka, perfect for the planet Scarif. As director Gareth Edwards explained at Star Wars Celebration: London, "Scarif is based on a paradise world, so we had to go to paradise to film it."



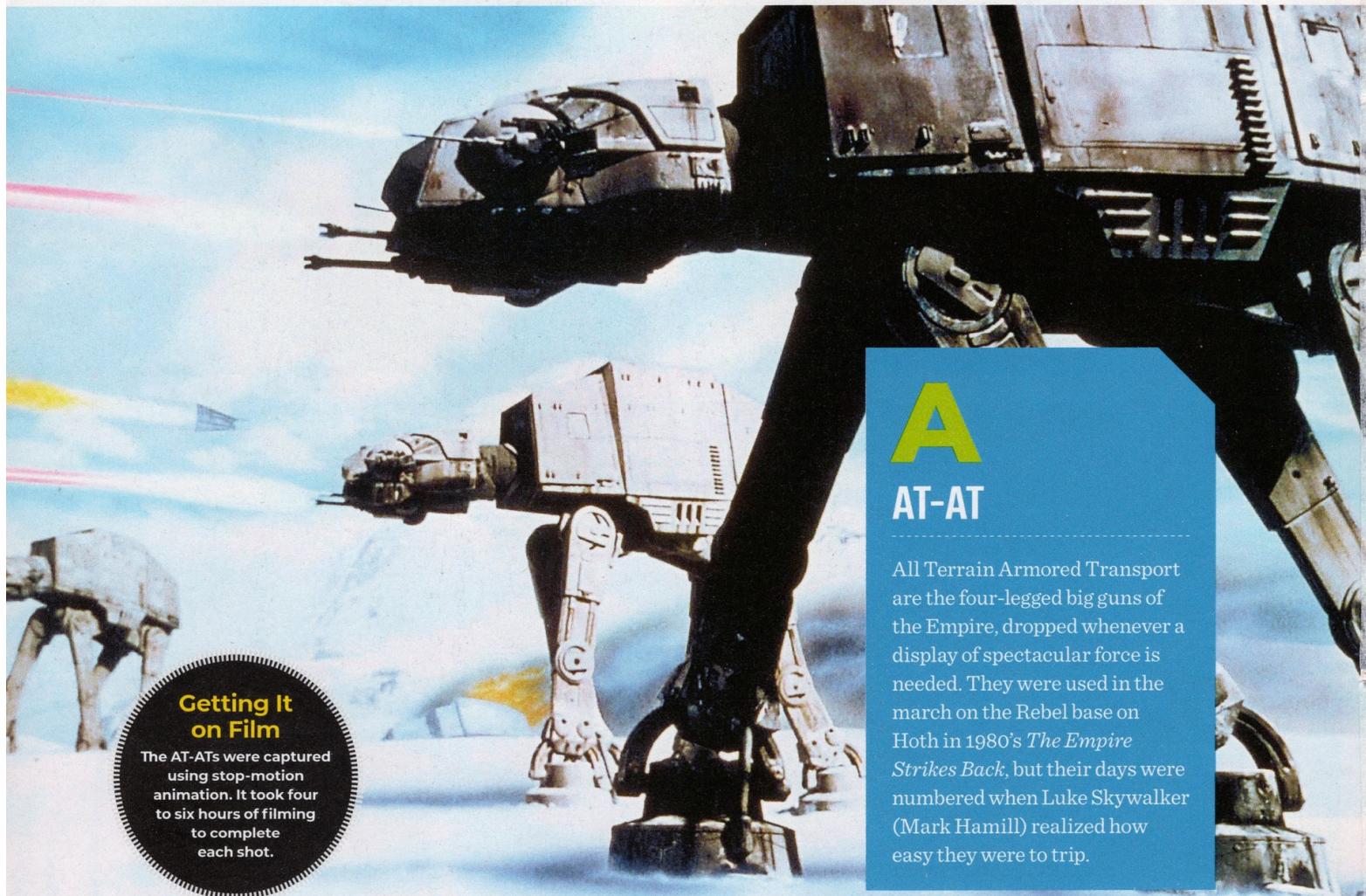
PLAZA DE ESPAÑA, SEVILLE, SPAIN

When production returned to Naboo in 2002's *Attack of the Clones*, they shot several scenes at this 1920s plaza, which is nearly 500,000 square feet and shaped like a half-circle. George Lucas even matched shots in his movie with those in 1962's Oscar-winning *Lawrence of Arabia*, also filmed at the Seville landmark.



ATOZ

DO YOU KNOW YOUR OOLA FROM YOUR YODA? GET BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH THE FRANCHISE'S LESSER-KNOWN CHARACTERS. BY DANIEL DOCKERY



Getting It on Film

The AT-ATs were captured using stop-motion animation. It took four to six hours of filming to complete each shot.

A AT-AT

All Terrain Armored Transport are the four-legged big guns of the Empire, dropped whenever a display of spectacular force is needed. They were used in the march on the Rebel base on Hoth in 1980's *The Empire Strikes Back*, but their days were numbered when Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) realized how easy they were to trip.



B

Bib Fortuna

Jabba the Hutt's majordomo was a sniveling sycophant who couldn't even be counted on to stop people from coming through the front door. After Jabba's death, the Twi'lek was executed by Boba Fett in Season 2 of *The Mandalorian*.

C

Cad Bane

Few characters are better proof of *Star Wars*' strength as a franchise than Cad Bane, the bounty hunter who first appeared in *The Clone Wars* animated series and immediately gave the Jedi major trouble. The Duros mercenary most recently showed up in *The Book of Boba Fett*, just as dangerous as ever.



D

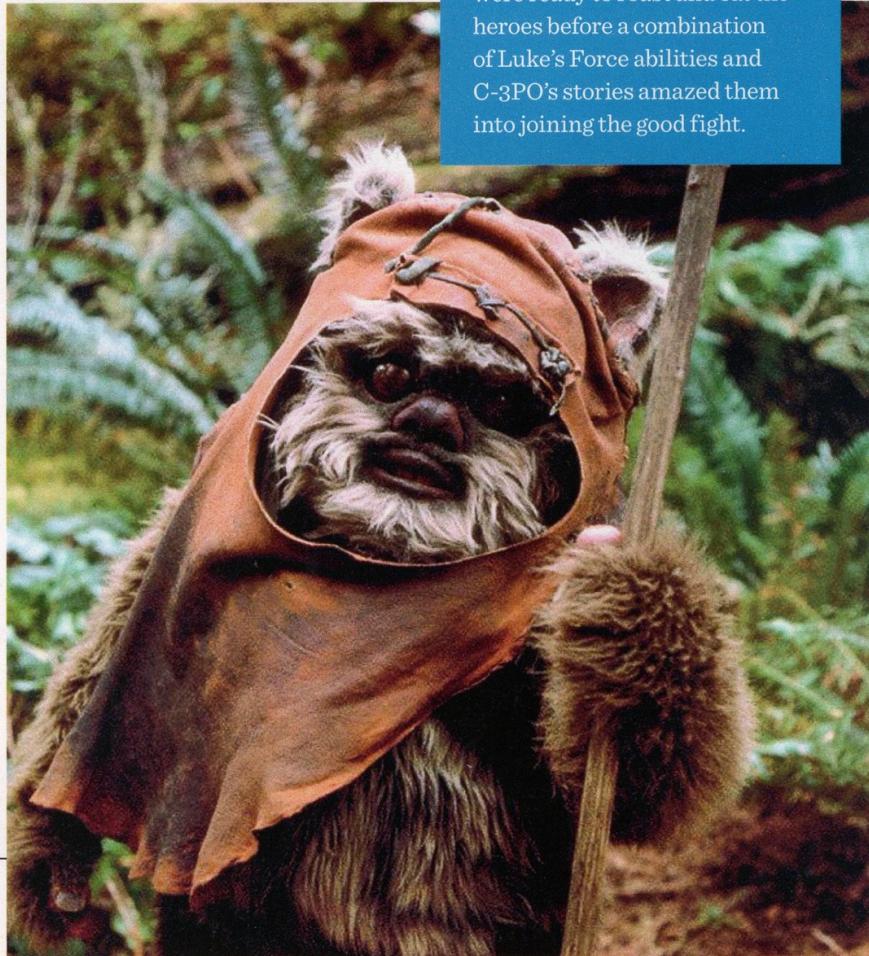
Darth Plagueis

Few Sith are as important as Plagueis, the master who turned Palpatine to the Dark Side. First mentioned in 2005's *Revenge of the Sith*, Plagueis was obsessed with bioengineering, life and immortality, which made it all the more ironic when Palpatine, going by the moniker of Darth Sidious, assassinated him in his sleep.

E

Ewok

While attempting to shut down the shield generator on the Forest Moon of Endor, the Rebellion ran into these fuzzy little cuties in 1983's *Return of the Jedi*. A warrior species, they were ready to roast and eat the heroes before a combination of Luke's Force abilities and C-3PO's stories amazed them into joining the good fight.



F

Firespray

Every cool character needs an equally cool ship, and the Firespray-class starship is the one in which Jango and Boba Fett fly around. Designed as a way to transport convicts and guards to a prison planet, it makes sense that one would be in the hands of bounty hunting's most famous family.



“

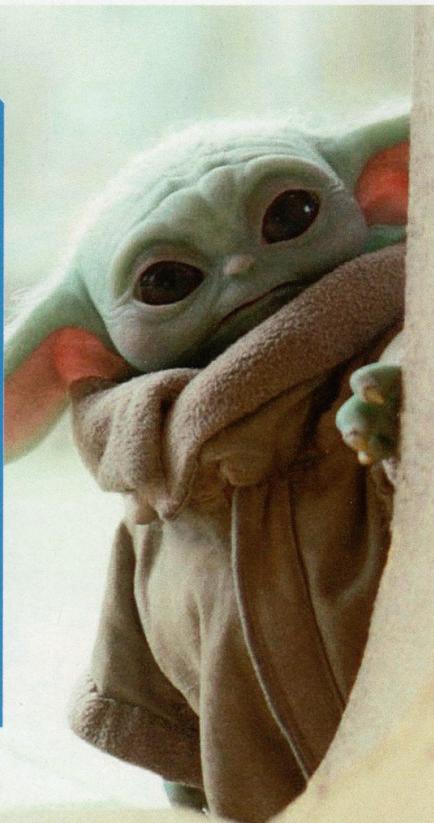
He prefers to be called Grogu.... He perks up a lot when you say his name.”

THE MANDALORIAN'S EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JON FAVREAU

G

Grogu

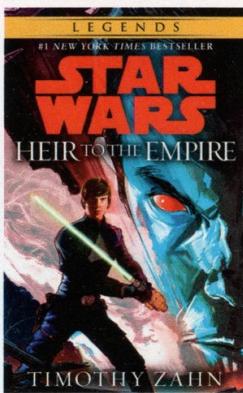
Although the internet unanimously named him Baby Yoda, Grogu is the actual name of the adorable little Force wielder who was saved by, and traveled with, the Mandalorian. His name was unpopular with *Star Wars* fans, however, a fact that was referenced in *The Book of Boba Fett*, when Peli Motto (Amy Sedaris) learns his name and promptly declares, “I’m not calling you that.”



H

Heir to the Empire

Even though the book—and much of the expanded universe of *Star Wars*—would be labeled “Legends” (see page 66), the first novel of this trilogy remains extremely important. Its leading villain, the infinitely cool Grand Admiral Thrawn, was allowed to jump into canon and appeared in *Star Wars Rebels*.



I

"I Have a Bad Feeling About This"

The *Star Wars* films are full of scenes of good guys getting into trouble and biting off more than they can chew. As such, the line first uttered by Luke in *A New Hope*, or a variation of it, has been uttered in every single movie since.

J

Jar Jar Binks

Despite being loathed by a majority of the fan base, the Gungan (voiced by Ahmed Best) became one of the most famous characters of the prequel trilogy. He bumbled his way through *The Phantom Menace*—and in *Revenge of the Sith*, his proposal led to Palpatine's swift, deadly rise.



K

Keira Knightley

Her blockbuster claim to fame remains the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films, but the Academy Award nominee appears in 1999's *The Phantom Menace* as Sabe, the handmaiden to Queen Amidala. She was cast as Padmé's decoy due to her resemblance to Natalie Portman, but would never reprise her role.

L

Lobot

Background characters in *Star Wars* films can attain a kind of legendary status, and the clearest example of that might be Lando Calrissian's quiet aide on Cloud City. Lobot (John Hollis) doesn't utter a single word in *The Empire Strikes Back*, a decision the filmmakers blamed on him being lobotomized by an Imperial guard.

Binks Bombs

"You feel like a success and a failure at the exact same time," Ahmed Best told *Wired* of the fan backlash to Jar Jar.



“

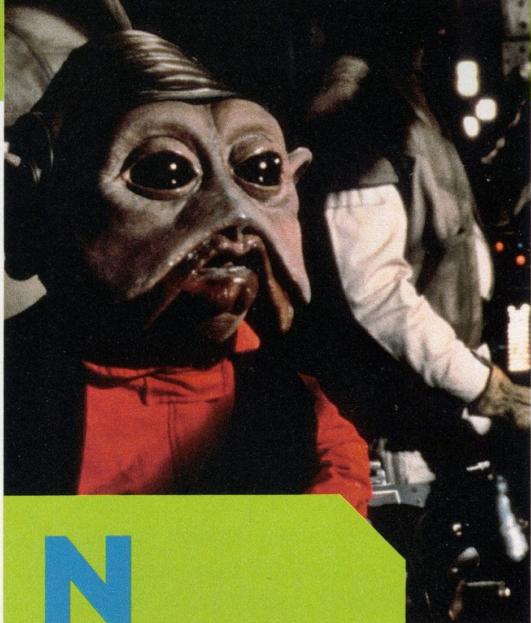
If anything ever happens in the future and the character is back...I have a lot of great ideas.”

RAY PARK, ON MAUL'S POSSIBLE RETURN

M

Maul

Aside from Boba Fett, no character has had a bigger afterlife than Maul, the former Sith (played by Ray Park) who was cut in half by Obi-Wan Kenobi in *The Phantom Menace* and returned countless times. This crafty demon can be found in *Solo*, *The Clone Wars*, *Rebels* and many, many comics.



N

Nien Nunb

Although he'd serve as Lando's co-pilot as the two flew the *Millennium Falcon* into the heart of the second Death Star in *Return of the Jedi*, Nien Nunb is also an example of great special effects. The Sullustan was played by an actor—unless he was in the *Falcon*, when he was a puppet.

O

Oola

Star Wars may be a sci-fi series, but it's also a great vehicle for horror. This is no clearer than in *Return of the Jedi* when Oola, Jabba's Twi'lek dancing girl (played by Femi Taylor), refuses her master's disgusting advances. One button-press later and she's dropped into the rancor pit.



P Phasma

Clad in silver armor, Phasma was a striking member of the First Order, first showing up in 2015's *The Force Awakens* and then returning for revenge two years later in *The Last Jedi*. The 6-foot-3-inch actress Gwendoline Christie portrayed her, excited to break ground as live-action *Star Wars'* first major female villain.



Smashing Stereotypes

"The idea of a woman wearing a suit of armor that was genderless: It shouldn't have felt new but it was," Gwendoline Christie said.

Q Qui-Gon Jinn

The Jedi master who served as teacher to Obi-Wan Kenobi and later discovered Anakin Skywalker in the Tatooine desert, Qui-Gon Jinn was simultaneously calming and commanding. Liam Neeson, who portrayed him, also seemed to be a big fan of his *Phantom Menace* role, reprising it in *The Clone Wars* animated series.



R Rancor

There are many creatures in the *Star Wars* universe, but few made as much of an immediate impact as the terrifying rancor. Devouring anyone that Jabba the Hutt disliked, one would be killed by Luke in *Return of the Jedi*. A multifaceted rancor appeared in *The Book of Boba Fett*.

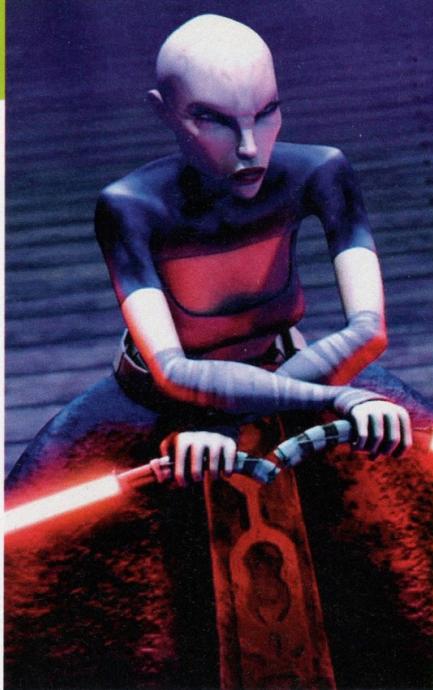
S Snoke

Who is Snoke? A failed clone of Palpatine? A new Sith Lord? A giant hologram created to intimidate the First Order? Fan theories ran amok when he appeared (played by Andy Serkis) in *The Force Awakens*, but all the intrigue in the world couldn't save him from being bisected by Kylo Ren (Adam Driver).



T**Trade Federation**

While it might have seemed silly for the Republic to be at war with what was essentially an intergalactic shipping business, it all became clear as the prequels went on. Controlled from the shadows by a scheming Darth Sidious, the Trade Federation could tyrannically hold entire planets economically hostage.

**V****Ventress**

Capturing the imagination of fans of *The Clone Wars*, Asajj Ventress (voiced by Nika Futterman) was a trainee of Count Dooku. Frustrated by her inability to join him thanks to the Rule of Two, she would rejoin the Nightsisters and later accompany Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker, dying a hero.

“

I love the idea of the darker, freakier side of Star Wars, the Mad Max aspect.”

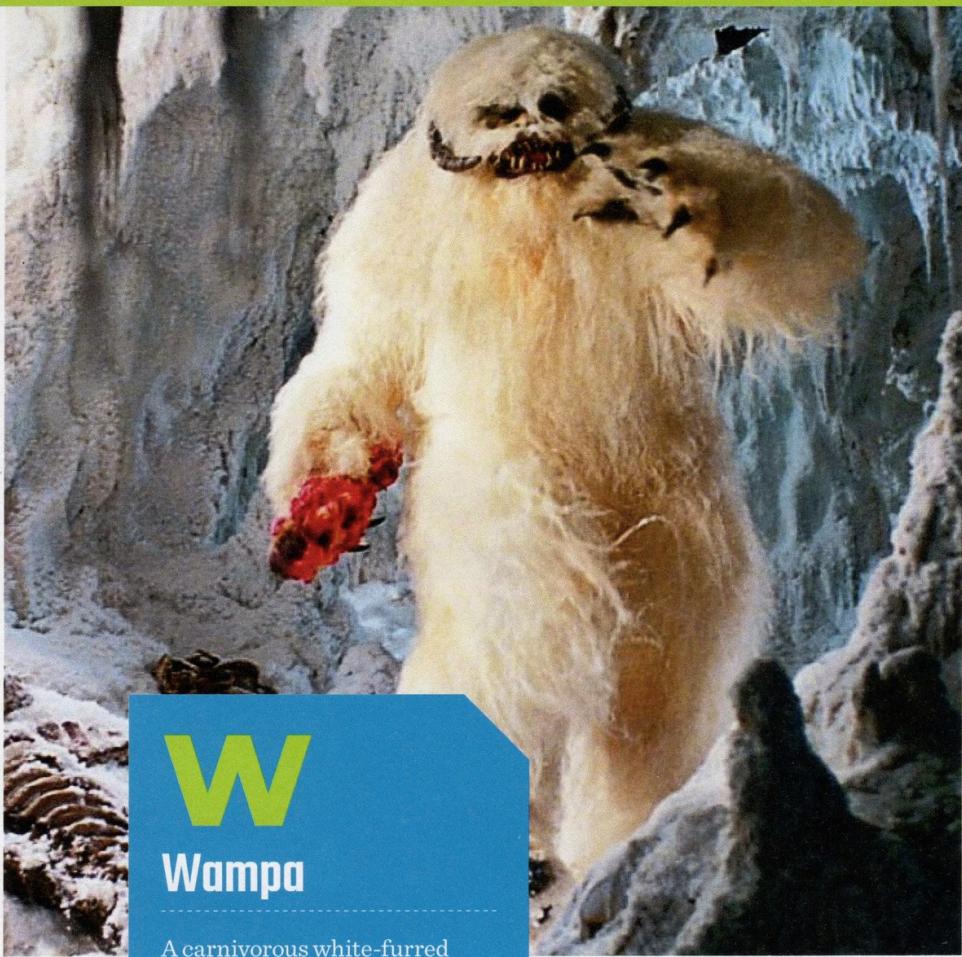
THE BOOK OF BOBA FETT CREATOR JON FAVREAU

U**Ugnaughts**

For many, this race of humanoids seemed to only exist as workers in Cloud City in *The Empire Strikes Back*. Fast-forward 40 years and one named Kuill was a major character in *The Mandalorian*, teaching Din Djarin on Arvala-7, helping to protect Grogu and voiced by acclaimed actor Nick Nolte.

**How They Did It**

Kuill's performance was done by Misty Rosas, who wore an animatronic face mask with the mouth and eyebrows controlled by three puppeteers.



W

Wampa

A carnivorous white-furred primate that lives on the snowy planet of Hoth, a wampa attacked Luke in *The Empire Strikes Back*. After Mark Hamill was in a serious car accident in 1977 that required reconstructive facial surgery, the sequence was reportedly written into the film to explain his slightly altered features.

X

X-Wing

From the very first Death Star battle, the X-wing has been the most identifiable starship in *Star Wars* not named the *Millennium Falcon*. The fleet would be piloted by Rebels including Wedge Antilles, Biggs Darklighter and Luke Skywalker—the last of whom accidentally submerged his in a swamp on Dagobah.



Y

Yoda

Living to the ripe old age of 900, Yoda (voiced by Frank Oz) has seen it all—generations of knights, the fall of the Republic, the massacre of the Jedi, and the eventual saving of the galaxy by Anakin and Luke Skywalker. He even appeared postmortem in *The Last Jedi* to give Luke his final lesson. Yoda's species is unknown, but others of his kind include *The Phantom Menace's* Yaddle, *Knights of the Old Republic's* Vandar Tokare and, of course, Grogu.



Z

Zillo Beast

First appearing in *The Clone Wars*, this gargantuan creature was more than 300 feet tall and had extremely strong, armored skin and three arms. One would wreak angry havoc on the city of Coruscant, delighting any child that had ever dreamed of *Star Wars vs. Godzilla*.

THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE

LIVE IT UP

FEEL THE POWER OF THE FORCE AT DISNEY'S GALAXY'S EDGE AND FULLY IMMERSE YOURSELF WITH A "VOYAGE" ON THE NEW GALACTIC STARCruiser. BY BRYAN YOUNG

A CHEWY GREETER

AT DISNEYLAND



FANTASY



In 2015, Disney announced the single largest expansion to its theme parks since their initial construction.

Galaxy's Edge—an immersive *Star Wars* land that lets guests experience the outer space world in ways never before possible—was set to be constructed across 14 acres at both U.S. parks. “We are creating a jaw-dropping new world,” Disney’s then chairman Bob Iger said.

Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge opened in May 2019 at Disneyland in Anaheim, California, and four months later at Disney World's Hollywood Studios in Orlando, Florida, at an estimated cost of \$1 billion each.

Sure, you can do normal tourist things, like take pictures with the *Millennium Falcon*, but there's so much more to offer a die-hard fan.

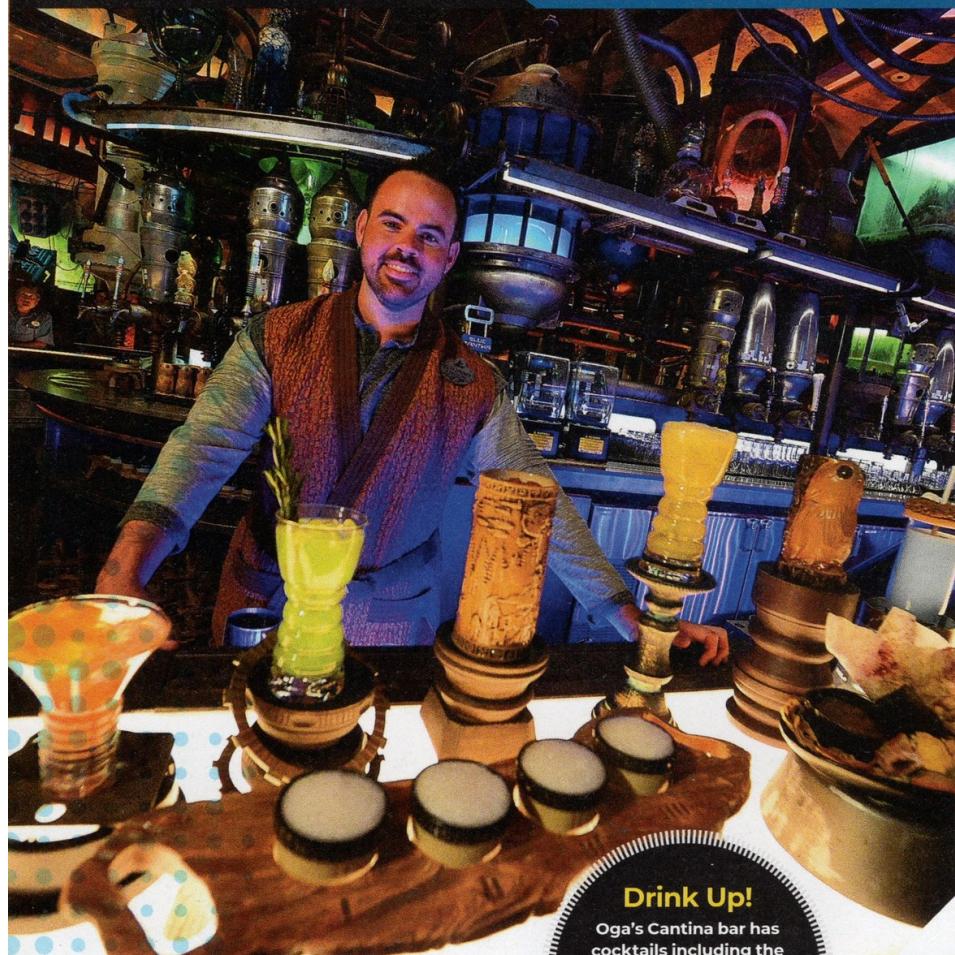
Guests can role-play with the cast members as though they were really inside the *Star Wars* universe. Galaxy's Edge is set on the planet of Batuu and the city of Black Spire, a remote outpost on the edge of the galaxy. There, people can trade in the market, dine at authentic eateries like Ronto Roasters and have a drink in Oga's Cantina. Lightsaber and droid-building are also popular pastimes inside Black Spire.

At Galaxy's Edge, each cast member will tell you what planet they're from (hint: none of them come from Earth) and why they joined up with the Resistance—or why they've chosen to stay out of the conflict.

The entire experience is set in a specific spot on the *Star Wars* time

What a Ride!

A life-size *Millennium Falcon* sits outside the Smugglers Run attraction at Disneyland, where you can ride in the spaceship's famous cockpit on a special mission.

**Drink Up!**

Oga's Cantina bar has cocktails including the Bloody Rancor (with chili liqueur) and a nonalcoholic Blue Bantha—blue milk served with a Bantha-inspired cookie.



The atrium on the Galactic Starcruiser, the *Halcyon*, where much of the action takes place.

line, right between 2017's *The Last Jedi* and 2019's *The Rise of Skywalker*. Guests can also go on secret missions for the Resistance or the First Order via the Disney Play app. The big attractions, though, offer the most immersive experiences.

Smugglers Run places visitors to Batuu in the cockpit of the *Millennium Falcon*, on loan to Hondo Ohnaka to steal coauxium for the Resistance. Up to six can board: two pilots, two gunners and two engineers to fix the ship. Once loaded, the *Falcon* heads to Corellia, where the heist takes place. It's nothing short of a wild ride, as long as the *Falcon* makes it back in one piece.

The other main attraction is Rise of the Resistance, possibly the most complicated ride Disney has ever dreamed up. It casts park visitors as members of the Resistance on the run from the First Order. After a quick briefing from Rey, guests are whisked onto a transport to evacuate the planet. Unfortunately, after the transport leaves orbit, it's intercepted by the First Order, who tractor-beam guests aboard a Star Destroyer and toss them into a jail cell. Then, Finn comes to the rescue to bust out the guests, rescuing them from the clutches of Kylo Ren.

The actors from the movies all reprise their roles and there is nothing to break that deep level of immersion. When you set foot in Galaxy's Edge, you are truly absorbed in a galaxy far, far away.

For those wanting to take their experience one step further, step aboard the *Halcyon*. Opened at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando in March 2022, the luxury hotel is a Galactic Starcruiser that will function more like a cruise ship with all kinds of interactive role-playing.

Once inside the Galactic Starcruiser—which is located in Disney's Epcot Resort Area—guests are transported into the world of *Star Wars*. All of the hotel's windows look out onto "space"—and each cabin or suite looks like it would fit right inside a *Star Wars* film or TV show.

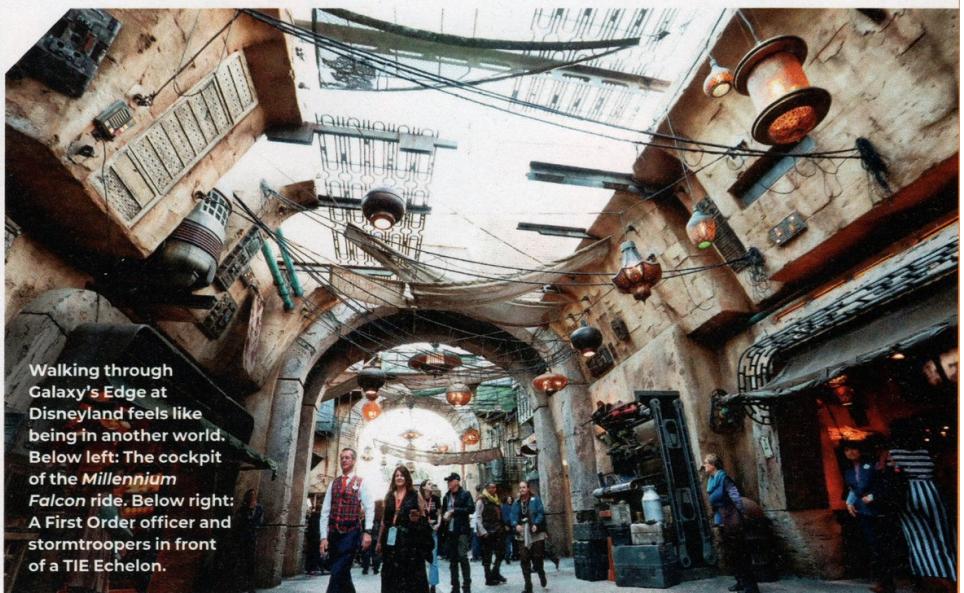
There are a variety of room configurations, with a family-size space featuring bunk beds for the kids. The two-night “voyage” (which costs \$5,999 for four guests) is a combination of live immersive theater, and a real-life role-playing game, down to the food options (the Crown of Corellia Dining Room offers a Taste Around the Galaxy menu) and *Star Wars* universe-themed clothing.

Guests can learn how to wield lightsabers, have a drink in the cantina-like Sublight Lounge, play a game of sabacc, and even come face-to-face with characters like Chewbacca and Kylo Ren.

Longtime Disney fans might find similarities in the experience to the now-defunct Adventurers Club, where any interaction with a cast member could lead to untold adventures and conversations.

The experience includes a transport to Batuu, where the world of Galaxy's Edge is folded in as part of the story, allowing visitors to experience the Disney park (and its rides) as well as the Galactic Starcruiser. “It’s unlike anything that exists today,” said Disney CEO Bob Chapek. So it only makes sense Disney would send you to “space” to see it.

The Galactic Starcruiser's rooms are completely immersive.



Walking through Galaxy's Edge at Disneyland feels like being in another world. Below left: The cockpit of the Millennium Falcon ride. Below right: A First Order officer and stormtroopers in front of a TIE Echelon.



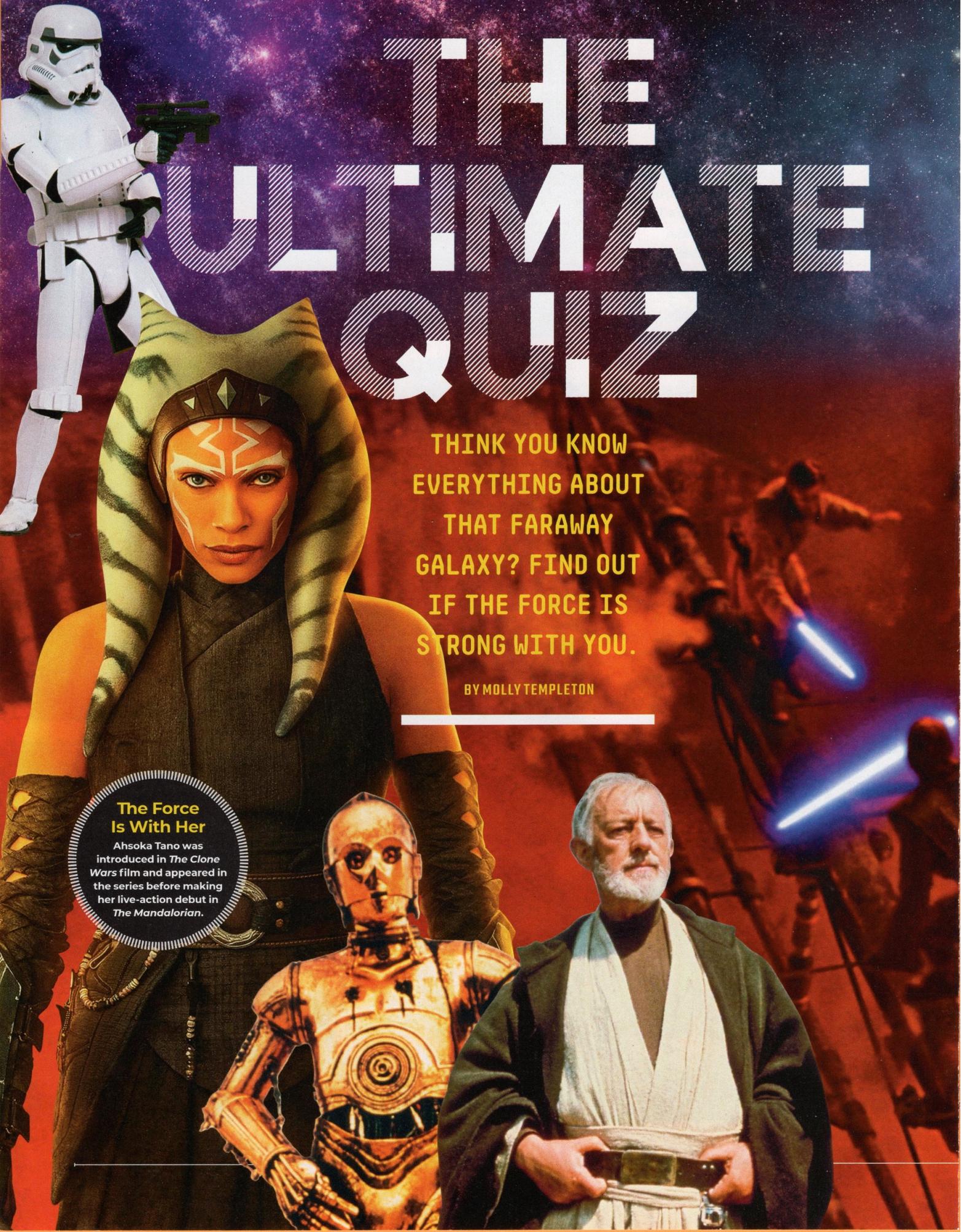
THE ULTIMATE QUIZ

THINK YOU KNOW
EVERYTHING ABOUT
THAT FARAWAY
GALAXY? FIND OUT
IF THE FORCE IS
STRONG WITH YOU.

BY MOLLY TEMPLETON

**The Force
Is With Her**

Ahsoka Tano was introduced in *The Clone Wars* film and appeared in the series before making her live-action debut in *The Mandalorian*.





1 In what year were the Special Editions of the original trilogy first shown in theaters?

- A 1996
- B 1997
- C 1998
- D 1999

2 On which planet do Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker duel in *Revenge of the Sith*?

- A Mustafar
- B Simbalore
- C Kamino
- D Dathomir

3 What is the name of Hera's ship on *Star Wars Rebels*?

- A The Specter
- B The Ghost
- C The Haunt
- D The Wraith

4 Which system is destroyed by the First Order's Starkiller Base weapon?

- A Corellian System
- B Dagobah System
- C Hosnian System
- D Rodia System

5 Who is the genetic template for the clone army?

- A Mando Fett
- B Boba Fett
- C Jango Fett
- D Joan Jett

6 What is former Jedi Master Count Dooku's Sith name?

- A Darth Murder
- B Darth Tyranus
- C Darth T-Rex
- D Darth Savagous

7 What creatures did Luke Skywalker bull's-eye in his T-16 on Tatooine?

- A Wyrwolves
- B Mynocks
- C Wampas
- D Womp rats

8 Which character from the series *Rebels* appears (with a different name) in the first episode of *The Bad Batch*?

- A Ezra Bridger
- B Kanan Jarrus
- C Hera Syndulla
- D Chopper

9 What kind of droid is worry-prone C-3PO?

- A Astromech
- B Espionage
- C Protocol
- D Scout

10 What is Baby Yoda's actual name?

- A Porgu
- B Ragu
- C Gizmo
- D Grogu

11 Where was Luke going to pick up some power converters in *A New Hope*?

- A Tosche Station
- B Tycho Station
- C Mos Eisley
- D Niima Outpost

12 Who adopted baby Leia?

- A Obi-Wan Kenobi
- B Bail Organa
- C Admiral Ackbar
- D Grand Moff Tarkin

13 What beverage does Luke drink in *The Last Jedi*?

- A Green milk
- B Blue milk
- C Arkanian sweet milk
- D Alcoari milk

14 What does TIE stand for?

- A Two intense enemies
- B Tough internal engine
- C Twin ion engine
- D Tie it easily

15 What species is Ahsoka Tano?

- A Tortuga
- B Togruta
- C Tortellini
- D Tartufo

16 Which member of the Bad Batch clones has impressive cybernetic enhancements?

- A Wrecker
- B Hunter
- C Tech
- D Echo

17 Which character says "I have a bad feeling about this" in *The Phantom Menace*?

- A Qui-Gon Jinn
- B Padmé Amidala
- C Obi-Wan Kenobi
- D Anakin Skywalker

18 Who gives Finn his name?

- A Rey
- B Poe
- C Leia
- D Hux

19 Who plays the rancor keeper on *The Book of Boba Fett*?

- A Danny Huston
- B Danny Trejo
- C Danny McBride
- D Donnie Wahlberg

20 What isn't Obi-Wan Kenobi called in *A New Hope*?

- A A wizard
- B A crazy old man
- C A hermit
- D Cheugy

“

I love you.”

LEIA ORGANA

“I know.”

HAN SOLO,
THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK



MAY THE QUOTES BE WITH YOU

THE EARLY FILMS' DIALOGUE MAY HAVE BEEN MOCKED—AND IN
SOME CASES IMPROVED—BY HARRISON FORD, BUT YOU'VE
PROBABLY QUOTED AT LEAST ONE OF THESE LINES. BY MOLLY TEMPLETON

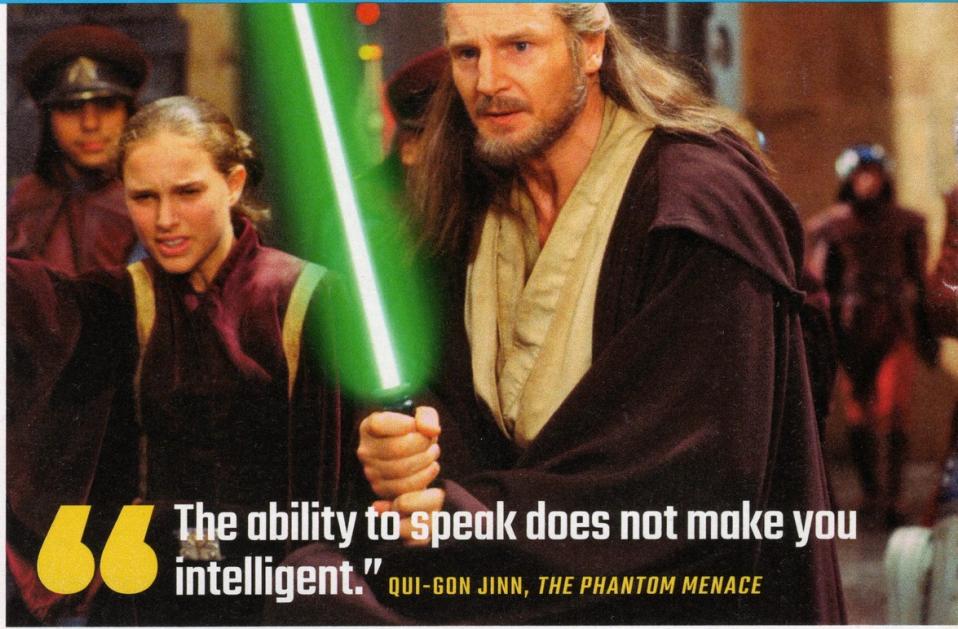




If you're a *Star Wars* fan, the dialogue isn't just something you hear when you watch the movies—the lines

can make their way into your own vocabulary. Maybe it's telling a friend to "use the Force," or muttering "I've got a bad feeling about this" on a challenging day. Or perhaps it's lovingly referring to your favorite local watering hole as a "wretched hive of scum and villainy," or complaining that you find someone's "lack of faith disturbing." The lines stick with us and become—like the franchise's stories—part of our lives.

Many of the franchise's best moments of dialogue echo or are in conversation with each other; Yoda's "Do or do not. There is no try" takes on new meaning when Kanan Jarrus refers to it in *Star Wars Rebels*, and there isn't a *Star Wars* story that doesn't have something to say about hope (after all, it's what rebellions are built on). To list all the greatest and most memorable lines, you'd need a book—and it wouldn't be a short one. But here are a few of the best.



"The ability to speak does not make you intelligent." QUI-GON JINN, *THE PHANTOM MENACE*

"Senators, I presume you are acquainted with the collection of half-truths and hyperbole known as Obi-Wan Kenobi?"

SATINE KRYZE, *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS*

"So this is how liberty dies...to thunderous applause."

PADMÉ AMIDALA, *REVENGE OF THE SITH*

"Why, you stuck-up, half-witted, scruffy-looking nerf herder!"

LEIA ORGANA TO HAN SOLO,
THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

"I am no Jedi."

AHSOKA TANO, *STAR WARS REBELS*

"We're doomed."

C-3PO, *A NEW HOPE*

"When 900 years old you reach, look as good you will not."

YODA, *RETURN OF THE JEDI*

"Hokey religions and ancient weapons are no match for a good blaster at your side, kid."

HAN SOLO, *A NEW HOPE*

"If you define yourself by the power to take life, the desire to dominate, to possess...then you have nothing."

OBI-WAN KENOBI, *STAR WARS REBELS*

"I am all the Jedi."

REY, *THE RISE OF SKYWALKER*

"Permission to jump in an X-wing and blow something up?"

POE DAMERON, *THE LAST JEDI*

"No one's ever really gone."

LUKE SKYWALKER, *THE LAST JEDI*

"Leia never gave up. And neither will we."

FINN, *THE RISE OF SKYWALKER*



"Stop touching things."

DIN DJARIN, *THE MANDALORIAN*

HOLLYWOOD SPOTLIGHT

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO STAR WARS

Publishers
BEN HARRIS
SEBASTIAN RAATZ

Editorial Director
ANNABEL VERED

Editor-in-Chief
KATHY CAMPBELL

Creative Director
JESSICA POWER

Executive Editor
JANET GIOVANELLI

Design Director
OLGA JAKIM

Features Editor
ALYSSA SHAFFER

Deputy Editors
RON KELLY
AMY MILLER KRAVETZ
ANNE MARIE O'CONNOR

Managing Editor
LISA CHAMBERS

Senior Art Directors
LAN YIN BACHELIS
PINO IMPASTATO

Art Directors
ALBERTO DIAZ
JACLYN LONEY
NATALI SUASNAVAS
JOSEPH ULATOWSKI

Production Designer
PETER NICEBERG

Contributing Writers
RYAN BRITT
DAN CLARENDRON
DANIEL DOCKERY
MOLLY TEMPLETON
BRYAN YOUNG

Senior Photo Editor
JENNY VEIGA

Photo Editor
DIANA FLEISCHMANN

Production Manager
PAUL RODINA

Copy Editor
MICHELE FILON

Production Assistants
TIANA SCHIPPA
ALYSSA SWIDERSKI

Editorial Assistants
MICHAEL FOSTER
ALEXIS ROTNICKI



Co-Founders
BEN HARRIS
SEBASTIAN RAATZ

Chief Financial Officer
ALYSSA SPIEL

Chief Retail Officer
CORT LAMEE

Vice President, Retail Sales
BRIAN THEVENY

Centennial Entertainment* (ISSN 2572-8105) Hollywood Spotlight* presents *The Complete Guide to Star Wars* is published by Centennial Media LLC, 1111 Brickell Avenue, 10th Floor, Miami, FL 33131 © 2022 by Centennial Media LLC. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior written permission. Printed in the USA.

PHOTO CREDITS

COVER AF archive/Alamy (3), Allstar Picture Library/Alamy, AF archive/Alamy, Collection Christophe/Alamy, ©Disney+/Lucasfilm/Courtesy Everett, Photo 12 / Alamy Stock, Entertainment Pictures/Alamy, AF archive/Alamy, ©20thCentFox/Courtesy Everett, Lucasfilm/Bad Robot/Walt Disney Studios/Kobal/Shutterstock, Rich Gold/Alamy; Digital Imaging Specialist: Eric Wolslager 2-3 ©20th Century Fox/Photofest 4-5 AA Film Archive/Alamy, Lucasfilm/Walt Disney Studios/Disney+, Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy, Collection Christophe/Alamy 6-7 Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy 8-9 Collection Christophe/Alamy 10-11 Sunset Boulevard/Corbis/Getty, BRUCHET Patrick/Paris Match/Getty, PictureLux/The Hollywood Archive/Alamy, Sunset Boulevard/Corbis/Getty 12-13 Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation/Photofest, Lucasfilm Ltd./Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp./Photofest, Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock, Lucasfilm Ltd./Twentieth Century Fox/Photofest, Retro AdArchives/Alamy, Toho Company, LMPC via Getty 14-15 Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy, BPA / Alamy 16-17 ScreenProd/Photostop/Alamy, Chris Williamson/Getty, ©ABC/Courtesy: Everett Collection, American Broadcasting Companies/Getty, Warner Archive/Youtube, Michael Ochs Archives/Getty(2), Robin Platzer/IMAGES/Getty, Disney General Entertainment Content/Getty, YouTube 18-19 Pascal Le Segretain/Getty, AF archive/Alamy, YouTube, TCD/Prod.DB/Alamy Stock, Silver Screen Collection/Getty, Frank Edwards/Foto International/Getty, Warner Brothers/Getty, United Artists/Getty, YouTube 20-21 AF archive/Alamy, Jeff Kravitz/FilmMagic/Getty, Kobal/Shutterstock, Bettmann/Corbis/Getty, Steve Larson/The Denver Post/Getty, Rastar/Columbia/Kobal/Shutterstock, Michael Montfort/Michael Ochs Archives/Getty, Tim Roney/Getty, YouTube 22-23 LUCAFSILM/20TH CENTURY FOX/Album/Alamy, Atlapix/Alamy, Frank Lennon/Toronto Star/Getty, NBCU Photo Bank/NBCUniversal/Getty 24-25 TCD/Prod.DB/Alamy, Everett Collection, Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy, PA Images/Fox 26-27 AF archive/Alamy, TCD/Prod.DB/Alamy 28-29 Photo 12/Alamy, Lucasfilm Ltd., Collection Christophe/Alamy, Terence Spencer/Popperfoto/Getty, Collection Christophe/Alamy, Richard Corkery/NY Daily News Archive/Getty 30-31 Collection Christophe/Alamy, Courtesy Everett Collection, Photofest, PictureLux/The Hollywood Archive/Alamy 32-33 LUCAFSILM/20TH CENTURY FOX/Album/Alamy, Everett Collection, United Archives GmbH/Alamy, Courtesy Everett Collection, Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock, Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock, Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock 34-35 AF archive / Alamy, ©20thCentFox/Courtesy Everett, ©Lucasfilm Ltd./Courtesy Everett, Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy, cineclassico / Alamy, AF archive / Alamy, Moviestore Collection Ltd. / Alamy, Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy, AA Film Archive/Alamy 36-37 Moviestore Collection Ltd./Alamy, Allstar Picture Library Limited./Alamy (2), Lucasfilm/Walt Disney Productions/Album/Alamy, AA Film Archive/Alamy, ©Walt Disney Co./Courtesy Everett 38-39 AF archive/Alamy, TCD/Prod.DB/Alamy, Walt Disney Pictures/Lucasfilm/Bad Robot, © Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures/© Lucasfilm Ltd./Courtesy Everett Collection, AF archive/Alamy, WALT DISNEY PICTURES/LUCAFSILM/Album/Alamy, Lucasfilm/Bad Robot/Walt Disney Studios/Kobal/Shutterstock, David James/Lucasfilm/Bad Robot/Walt Disney/Kobal/Shutterstock, Lucasfilm/Bad Robot/Walt Disney Studios/Kobal/Shutterstock 40-41 Clay Enos/©Warner Bros./Courtesy Everett, Bantam Spectra, TaikaWaititi/Instagram (2), AF archive/Alamy 42-43 TCD/Prod.DB/Alamy, Marc Flores/Getty, TCD/Prod.DB/Alamy (2), Vivien Killilea/Getty, David James.©Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures/Lucasfilm Ltd./Courtesy Everett (2) 44-45 ©UKTV/Courtesy Everett Collection, Walt Disney Pictures/Lucasfilm/Bad Robot (2), Kevin Mazur/WireImage/Getty, Paul Archuleta/FilmMagic/Getty, Kevin Winter/Getty, Sunset Boulevard/Corbis/Getty 46-47 TCD/Prod.DB/Alamy 48-49 PictureLux/The Hollywood Archive/Alamy, Lucasfilm/Walt Disney Studios/Disney+ 50-51 ©Disney+/Lucasfilm/Courtesy Everett, Rob Latour/Shutterstock, Lucasfilms/Walt Disney Studios/Disney+ (4), Lucasfilm/Walt Disney Productions/Album/Alamy 52-53 Lucasfilm/Disney/Kobal/Shutterstock, Dailywire/TCD/Prod.DB/Alamy, Francois Duhamel/©Disney+/Lucasfilm/Courtesy Everett, ©Disney+/Courtesy Everett 54-55 LUCAFSILM/Album/Alamy, TCD/Prod.DB/Alamy 56-57 Lucasfilm/Walt Disney Studios/Disney+ (5), Danny Trejo/Twitter, LucasFilm/Walt Disney Studios/Disney+ (5), TCD/Prod.DB/Alamy, LUCAFSILM/Album/Alamy 58-59 PictureLux/The Hollywood Archive/Alamy, RGR Collection/Alamy, Lucasfilm/Getty, Lucasfilm/DisneyXD/Getty, Disney+/Lucasfilm Animation/Album/Alamy 60-61 © 2020 Lucasfilm Ltd. & TM, Lucasfilm/Walt Disney Studios/Disney+, Claudette Barrios/©Warner Bros./Courtesy Everett, Katalin Vermes/©Netflex/Courtesy Everett, Photo 12/Alamy, AF archive/Alamy, NBC/Album/Alamy, ©Walt Disney Co./Courtesy Everett 62-63 ScreenProd/Photostop/Alamy, Justin Lubin/Lucasfilm Ltd. & TM, ©Disney+/Lucasfilm/courtesy Everett, Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP/Shutterstock, Emma McIntyre/Getty, AF archive/Alamy, AF archive/Alamy, Sophie Mutevelian/©Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures/©Marvel Studios/Courtesy Everett, Lucasfilm/Walt Disney Studios/Disney+ 64-65 Collection Christophe/Alamy, Anthony Daniels/Instagram, ©20thCentFox/Courtesy Everett, Marvel, © Jonathan Olley/Collection Christophe/Alamy, ©Lucasfilm/© Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures/Courtesy Everett 66-67 MarvelComics, DelReyBooks (3), Random House, Disney Lucasfilm Press, Del Rey Books, Marvel Comics, DelReyBooks, DarkHorseComics 68-69 Allstar Picture Library/Alamy 70-71 AF archive/Alamy, © 20th Century Fox Film Corp./Courtesy Everett, ©Lucasfilm, PictureLux/The Hollywood Archive/Alamy, Atlapix/Alamy, Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock, Pal Hermansen/Getty, Getty Images/Stockphoto, Getty Images/Tetra Images RF, Shutterstock/Lutsenko_Oleksandr_72-73 LUCAFSILM/20TH CENTURY FOX/Album/Alamy, AF archive/Alamy, Photo 12/Alamy, Lucasfilm/Walt Disney Studios/Disney+ 74-75 AA Film Archive/Alamy, AF archive/Alamy, Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock (2), Collection Christophe/Alamy, ©Lucasfilm, Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock 76-77 Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock, AA Film Archive/Alamy, AF Archive/Alamy, Photo 12/Alamy, LUCAFSILM/20TH CENTURY FOX/Album/Alamy, ScreenProd/Photostop/Alamy, Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy, ©Lucasarts Entertainment/Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock 78-79 Photo 12/Alamy, TCD/Prod.DB/Alamy, Collection Christophe/Alamy, TCD/Prod.DB/Alamy 80-81 Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy, ©Lucasarts Entertainment/Disney+, Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock, Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock, Collection Christophe/Alamy, ©Lucasfilm 82-83 Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock, AF archive/Alamy, AA Film Archive/Alamy, Lucasfilm/Walt Disney Studios/Disney+ 84-85 PictureLux/The Hollywood Archive/Alamy, ©Lucasarts Entertainment/Disney+, LUCAFSILM LTD & TM/Album/Alamy, DisneyBooks, ©Disney+/Lucasfilm/Courtesy Everett 86-87 Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy, Everett Collection, AF archive/Alamy, © Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures/© Lucasfilm Ltd./Courtesy Everett, UCAS FILM LTD & TM/HAMSHERE, KEITH/Album/Alamy, ©Lucasfilm 88-89 ©Warner Bros/Courtesy Everett, ©Lucasfilm, Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy, ©Lucasfilm Animation/Disney+, Lucasfilm/Walt Disney Studios/Disney+ 90-91 MediaNews Group/Orange County Register/Getty, Gerardo Mora/Getty, Kirby Lee/Alamy 92-93 Gerardo Mora/Getty, Disney Parks, REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni/Alamy, Gerardo Mora/Getty (2), Bryan Young 94-95 Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock, Lucasfilm/Walt Disney Studios/Disney+, Collection Christophe/Alamy, Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock, Lucasfilm/Fox/Kobal/Shutterstock, ©Lucasfilm 96-97 Allstar Picture Library/Alamy, Disney+/Lucasfilm/Courtesy Everett, Lucasfilm/Kobal/Shutterstock 98 Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy BACK COVER Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy

This magazine is editorially independent and has not been licensed or approved by the owners of the characters or entertainment properties.



Born to Lead

Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) began helping the rebels long before Episode IV: A New Hope, according to the 2014-18 animated series Rebels.

CHECK OUT THESE GREAT READS!



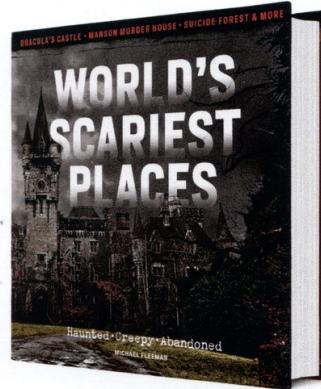
They Sailed the Seas to Conquer New Lands

Join us on an epic voyage to discover the essence of these seafaring Scandinavians—their daily lives and death rituals, weapons of war and much more. Plus: their incredible ships.



Hoist the Jolly Roger and Climb Aboard

From Captain Hook to Captain Jack Sparrow, this book is a rollicking adventure that covers the complete history of the greatest cutthroats, corsairs and scourges to ever loot, pillage and plunder.



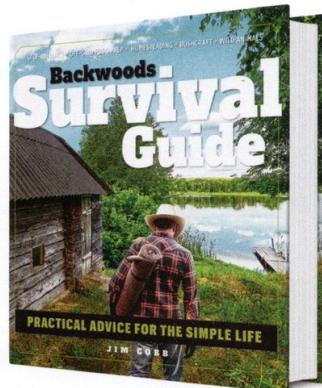
Your Passport to Pure Terror

Journey around the globe to places so chilling that only the ghosts dare to roam. Discover all the eerie things you can't see—but you'll feel against the back of your neck!



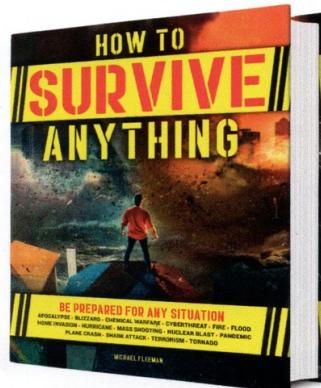
What Gives You the Chills?

From slashers to the supernatural, werewolves to witches, we love being frightened. This book is an in-depth reference to all things that go bump in the night.



Be More Self-Sufficient

Whether you'd like to save money, conserve resources or be better prepared for emergencies, this book teaches you all the tools you need to thrive in the great outdoors.



Survive Any Situation

Disasters can threaten us at any time, from pandemics, storms and mass shootings to plane crashes or doomsday scenarios. This book has practical advice that may save your life.

WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD

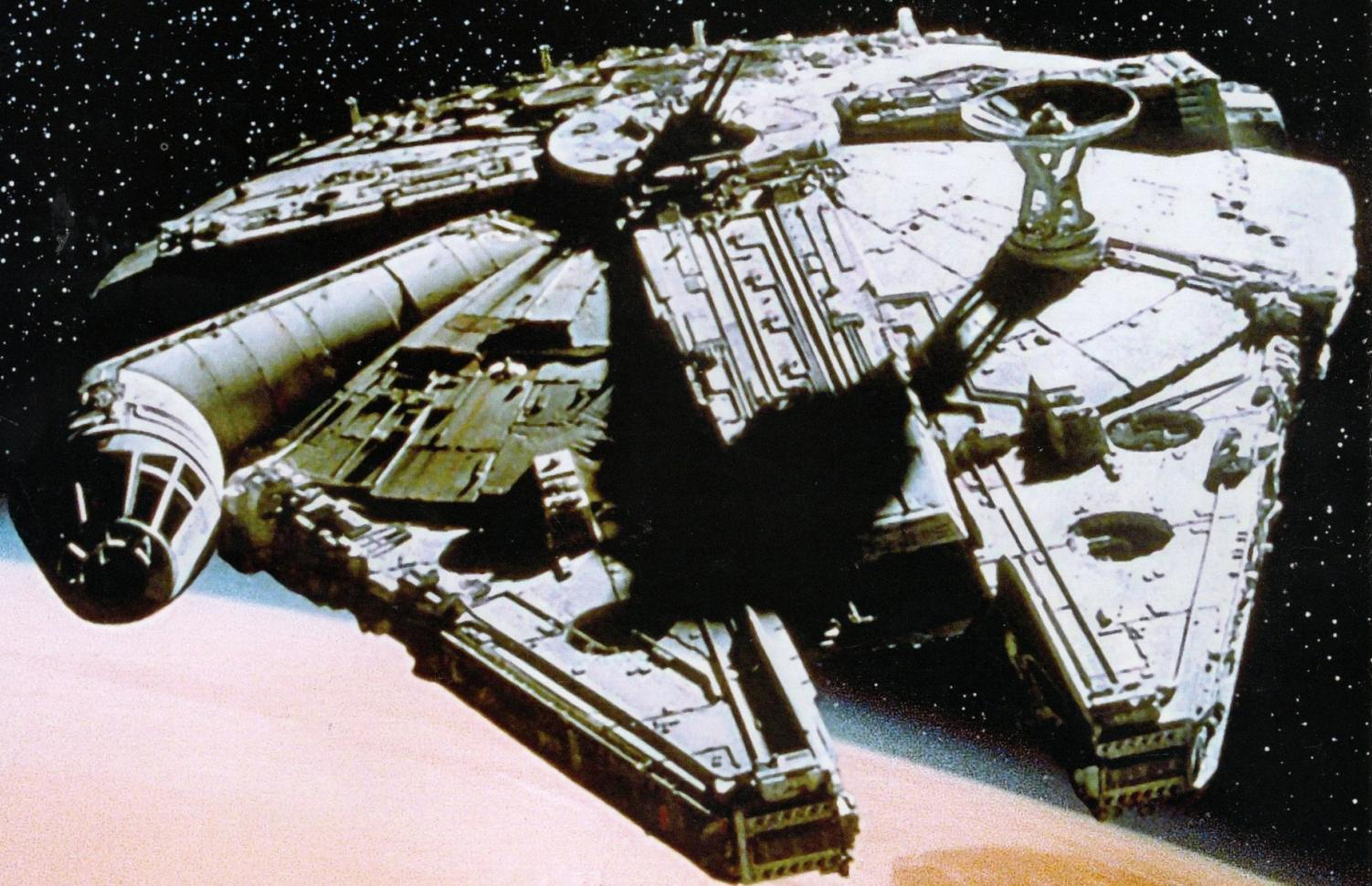


TO SEE ALL OF OUR BOOKS, FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!
@centennialbooks



**“MAY THE FORCE
BE WITH YOU.”**

OBI-WAN KENOBI



Star Wars creator and director George Lucas nicknamed Han Solo's *Millennium Falcon* "the Flying Hamburger," seen here in the first film, *Episode IV: A New Hope*.